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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

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BUSINESS



For many investors, Apple's best days are behind it. ➤ **PAGE 14**

NATION



More than 6 in 10 Americans now favor allowing illegal immigrants to eventually become U.S. citizens.

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BASED ON PROPOSED NEW POWER PLANT

SDLLC points to \$500M savings in 25-year period



SPRUCING UP

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Dante Sales, top, of RNV Construction, along with another worker, cleans up and renovates yesterday a giant business signage of National Office Supply along Beach Road, one of the most popular school and office supplies stores in the CNMI. The Fitial administration has been touting a few promising signs of the beginning of economic recovery in 2013, citing additional flights that bring in additional visitors to the islands, among other things.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

In an "open letter" to the CNMI people, Delaware-based Saipan Development LLC has said that their proposed new power plant would provide more than \$500 million in savings during a 25-year period because of "drastic" improvements in technology.

This comes weeks after Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas said that the \$190.8-million power purchase agreement signed by SDLLC, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, and former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham in 2012 is void and unenforceable, and amid a pending taxpayer suit

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WITH ALIEN WORKER PROGRAM ENDING AFTER 2014

Legislature starts weighing improved status, transition extension

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Senate President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said yesterday that a committee will be tasked to revisit the Senate's three-year-old recommendation to grant long-term foreign workers in the CNMI an immigration status similar to those granted to citizens of Freely Associated States, or other improved status depending on input from stakeholders. This is in light of the Dec. 31, 2014 expiration of the transitional Commonwealth-only worker program, which will put an end to the CNMI's access to foreign workers.

Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), a former CNMI immigration director, separately said yesterday that he will be pushing for a unified House position requesting the U.S. Secretary of Labor to extend the transition period.

Sablan said CNMI stakeholders—businesses, workers, and the government—should be able to know by 2013 whether the transition period will be extended beyond 2014.

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Some articles of impeachment vs Fitial could be voted on today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Some articles of impeachment against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial could be voted on today, once the Special



Fitial

Investigating Committee on Impeachment adopts its rules and starts reviewing each of the articles starting with his failure to appoint for several months key government officials including a chief justice, Cabinet secretaries and board members. The governor can be impeached and convicted on only one of these 18 articles of impeachment.

Committee chair Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan) told reporters yes-

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Hofschneider



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Local

CDA intends to protect investment on Arctic Circle Air

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

With \$600,000 at stake, the Commonwealth Development Authority intends to protect its investment on Arctic Circle Air, according to executive director Manuel A. Sablan.

Sablan said that while the CDA remains supportive of the project, the agency wants to ensure that Arctic Circle Air has sufficient funding to carry out its mission to provide air transportation between CNMI and Guam.

"We have to ensure that

CDA's investment is fully protected. That essentially is where we are," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan's statement comes after Arctic Circle Air launched its passenger services and announced its newest major stockholder.

Sablan recounted that the

CDA board approved and released the \$600,000 investment to Arctic Circle Air as a pledge on an interim loan that the airline company was negotiating with Rhode Island-based Independence Bank since the agency is not in the position to finance the entire venture.

The investment, noted Sablan, came with the condition that it would have to be converted into equity once the bank loan deal is finalized.

"If Independence Bank never made any commitment, CDA would never deploy the \$600,000," he added.

However, Arctic Circle Air decided to turn down the loan proposal due to "too much restrictions" and instead welcomed a new investor through president Hee Cho of JMSH, LLC which owns Rota Resort & Country Club.

The largest hotel property on Rota has chartered Arctic Circle Air for passenger services from Saipan.

While getting another funding source is Arctic Circle Air's prerogative, CDA wants to make sure that these sources are

"verifiable" through documentations to protect not only the agency's investment but also those of other private investors such as local agricultural producers, said Sablan.

He added that the airline company has yet to demonstrate the funding for this project.

The executive director also noted that Arctic Circle Air's representation at the beginning of its venture is providing a bridge between the Northern Marianas and Guam to promote agricultural export.

"Now, they found another business opportunity," said Sablan. "Not that it's bad. It's good. Business opportunities are good. But that's not the primary purpose of the investment."

'Transportation'

Arctic Circle Air's Paul Zak, when asked for comment, said that the company is in the transportation business, which involves both cargo and passengers.

"The reason why we didn't look at doing passengers at the beginning is we didn't have the customers. We didn't think we'd

be capable of doing this for several months more, that we're going to take our time. With Rota Resort coming in, they have the customers. If they're willing to put up the additional financing to expand, then we both complement one another. It makes sense," he explained.

Zak emphasized that Arctic Circle Air will keep on transporting general cargo and will continue to work with local farmers to export agricultural produce to Guam.

With the additional passenger service, Zak disclosed that their target is to have three passenger flights and two cargo flights a day, six days a week. But this will depend on "bottlenecks" such as weather and delays on the ground.

Zak said that Arctic Circle Air's ongoing operations have made the company "more desirable" to potential investors. Besides Cho, at least three other major investors have expressed in participating in the airline venture.

He noted, though, that they are still in the process of working out a structure on Cho's deal with Arctic Circle Air.

According to Zak, it was in the initial stage of the venture when CDA took the risk on Arctic Circle Air. Since they were able to deliver what they promised to do, he said the risk would "substantially" diminish given that they are now expanding operations.

Rota, Tinian lawmakers to pick officers next week

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The 18th Rota Legislative Delegation and Tinian Legislative Delegation will hold their organizational sessions next week to, among other things, select their officers and adopt their interim rules.

Senate President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said yesterday that the Tinian delegation comprised of three senators and one representative has already reached an agreement to select Sen. Francisco Borja (Ind-Tinian) as delegation chair.

"Senator Borja has vast experience in public service. And we reviewed the rules, the delegation chairman does not need to be among the most senior members," said Hofschneider, the Tinian delegation chairman in the previous Legislature.

The Tinian delegation session

is set for Tuesday, Jan. 29, 10am on Capital Hill.

Sen. Victor Hocog (R-Rota) and Rep. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) separately said yesterday that the Rota Legislative Delegation's session is set for Monday, Jan. 28, at 2pm on Capital Hill. However, this may be moved to a later date.

Unlike the Tinian lawmakers, the Rota lawmakers have yet to reach a consensus on who to elect as chairman.

Besides Hocog and Santos, the two other Rota lawmakers are Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) and Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota). Ayuyu remains in prison related to a smuggling of endangered fruit bats case, so he won't be able to attend the organizational session.

Hocog said he would give way to either Santos or Taimanao for chairmanship of the Rota delegation.

High surf advisory still in effect

The CNMI Emergency Management Office reiterated yesterday that its high surf advisory remains in effect until 6am today, Jan. 24, along north facing reefs.

Based on information EMO received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, a north to northeast swell and wind waves generated by a shear line will continue to diminish but surf will remain hazardous on north facing shores.

Surf on east facing reefs has already dropped below hazardous levels.

According to EMO, hazardous surf of 8 to 9 feet was expected along north facing shores last night before dropping below hazardous levels this morning.

The public is urged to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north and east facing reefs as rip currents are life threatening. (EMO)

Beach Road closed Friday morning due to training exercise

The Office of the Governor, Office of Homeland Security, Department of Public Safety, and the Public School System would like to inform the general public and motorists that as part of their ongoing training and exercise, they will be conducting a drill on Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan on Friday Jan. 25, 2013 from 9am to 11am.

To ensure the safety of everyone, both north and south-bound lanes will be closed beginning from the San Jose Traffic Light (Microl Intersection) and south to the former Mobil Gas Station Intersection near the Oleai Sports Complex.

"We apologize for any inconvenience as a result of this important exercise and thank the general public for your patience and understanding," a statement from the Office of the Governor read.

Please feel free to call the CNMI Office of Homeland Security for any questions or concerns at 670-664-2216. (Office of the Governor)



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Arctic Circle Air's Anthony Pellegrino, left, gestures as he talks to reporters about the airline company during Monday's press conference at Rota Resort & Country Club after the launching of their inaugural passenger flight from Saipan. Looking on are JMSH, LLC vice president Jae Hong and Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola.

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AS ALL SITTING JUDGES RECUSED FROM FUND LAWSUIT

Former judge Bellas appointed to handle Fund case

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

As all sitting Superior Court judges recused themselves from presiding over the NMI Retirement Fund lawsuit against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the CNMI government, CNMI Supreme

Court chief justice Alexandro C. Castro yesterday appointed former judge Timothy H. Bellas to handle the matter.

Castro said Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraña has informed him that all trial court sitting judges, including him, have disqualified them-

selves from the Fund lawsuit.

Castro said under the authority of the NMI Constitution and in furtherance of the prompt and efficient dispatch of court business, the chief justice may designate a judge pro tempore as necessary.

The chief justice appointed former Superior Court associate judge Bellas to serve as judge pro tempore in the Fund lawsuit.

"Unless good cause be shown otherwise, Timothy H. Bellas shall have the full authority to serve as judge pro tempore in this matter and shall carry out the duties and powers inherent with the appointment," Castro said.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho was the last judge to recuse from the case.

In his order issued yesterday, Camacho said he must recuse himself from handling this case because the Fund is his former client.

Camacho was the attorney who represented the Fund when the first complaint was filed to sue the central government.

Fund trustee *ad litem* Joseph C. Razzano, through counsels Daniel J. Berman and Braddock J. Huesman, wants a disinterested, neutral judge or justice

from Guam or any other U.S. jurisdiction to be temporarily designated to decide the merits that remain in the case and proceedings.



Bellas

The pending motion to be heard is the Commonwealth Ports Authority's motion to have Razzano be held on contempt for allegedly failing to comply with Public Law 17-82.

Public Law 17-82 allows Fund members to withdraw the full amount of their contributions without separating from the government.

The Fund filed a lawsuit

in Superior Court in 2006 against Fitial, the CNMI government, and co-defendants over the government's failure to remit required payments to the Fund.

In 2009, Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo ruled that the government owes the Fund \$282 million in damages and that the law suspending government contributions to the Fund is unconstitutional.

'Restoring public trust at DPS a big challenge'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Newly nominated Department of Public Safety commissioner Sgt. James C. Deleon Guerrero yesterday said restoring public trust and confidence back to DPS is one of the big challenges that the organization is currently facing.

"There's a lot of crimes that have been reported lately. I think the department needs to reach that gap between the community and the department," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

Deleon Guerrero said there are a number of ways and means, which they could implement to address the problem on rising criminality.

"I look forward to finally put some concrete plans into action," he said.

Deleon Guerrero likewise said he is grateful with his

appointment to lead DPS.

Deleon Guerrero and Detective Jeffrey Olopai were responsible for the creation in 2002 of the Thief Apprehension Select Coalition, a special group at DPS that focused on solving burglary, theft, and robbery cases.

TASC is credited for 107 arrests between July 28 and Dec. 31, 2002.

Deleon Guerrero also led 25 other police officers in filing a lawsuit to protest DPS' discriminatory practices in its promotion and hiring. The court issued last year a judgment favorable to the officers' lawsuit.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Tuesday nominated the police sergeant to serve as DPS commissioner. The appointment requires the Senate's advice and consent.

For almost a year, Fitial appointed alternately as commissioner in an acting capacity brothers Ambrosio and Aniceto Ogomoro.

Man allegedly blocks road, threatens ex-common law wife with air rifle

Police arrested on Sunday a man who allegedly blocked a roadway in San Antonio leading to the house of his former common-law wife and threatened her with an air rifle.

Roman Torres Cabrera, 46, was taken to Superior Court for a bail hearing on Tuesday afternoon on charges of assault, stalking in the second degree, and disturbing the peace.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed a \$5,000 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing on Jan. 28.

Detective Rudolph Sablan stated in his report that a police officers searched Cabrera's house and confiscated an air gun, air gun pellets of .177 caliber, and two metal knuckles.

Sablan said when a police officer responded to the scene, the victim appeared very scared as her hands were shaking.

The officer also removed a log that was blocking the road leading to the victim's house.

According to the victim, Cabrera put the log to block the roadway and threatened he would beat up anyone who removes the log.

The victim told police that she also heard gunshots around her house.

The victim moved back to Saipan from Guam on Sept. 15, 2012 to stay away from Cabrera who allegedly beat her up.

She claimed that Guam police arrested Cabrera for choking her.

The victim said since Cabrera came back to Saipan on Jan. 5, 2013, he would walk by her house armed with a rifle day and night shouting profanity words at her.

The victim said that, on Sunday morning, she and her two sons were sleeping in the house when she heard loud gunshots.

A few minutes later, she saw Cabrera walking by her house and putting a log on the road.

The victim then called the police. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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PNG students allege corruption in education department

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post-Courier/PIR)—Students from 11 secondary schools in Papua New Guinea's Highlands region accused of cheating in the 2012 national exams have claimed they are victims of corrupt deals within the Education Department.

Students from at least four schools have revealed to the Post-Courier that there was cheating, but not all the students were involved as many of them were prepared for the examinations,

but some students were influenced by corrupt officials in the Education department to cheat.

They said the national government should look at how questions and answers for last year's grade 12 examinations ended up in the schools before the examinations and get to the core of the issue, who did it and how did it happen, before penalizing about 10,000 students and putting their future at risk.

Only 150 students from the accused schools, including Hagen Secondary,

Wabag Secondary, Pausa and Kopen in Enga province, were selected for places at tertiary institutions.

The students claimed that only a handful of students used the "supplied question and answer sheets" during the national exams last year and the majority of the affected were collaborating with police in their investigations.

Representatives from three secondary schools in Enga also claimed that nepotism and bribery may have been involved because those selected never

did well in class and were sons and daughters of rich people and relatives of teachers and they demanded an explanation as to how 70 students from their schools were selected.

Students from Kopen, Pausa and Sir Tel Abel Secondary Schools in Enga expressed their frustration about how some of their peers who scored average grades in internal exams were selected for tertiary studies while they were accused of cheating.

The Enga students petitioned the Ed-

ucation department, the Prime Minister and Governor Peter Ipatas for only the external marks to be printed on the certificates; for more places in tertiary institutions to accommodate students from the increasing number of secondary schools; and clarification on the criteria used to select 70 students from the province while more than 900 have missed out.

Eight student leaders under condition of anonymity said the selection of the 70 from external marks, as mentioned by Prime Minister Peter O'Neill, was not true because most of them were middle-average students while the brightest students in the province, including the Dux of Sir Tei Abel Secondary, were omitted from the selection.

They said the bulk of them were thrown out onto the streets by some corrupt officers inside the Education department's Measuring Service Unit.

"We're not sure where the questions and answers came from. We're innocent. The MSU should come clear and explain to the country how these papers came to the hands of students concerned," they said.

FITIAL

From Page 1

terday afternoon that these neglect of duty allegations are "clear cut."

"We will be voting on each article as we proceed," he said. "This means once the resolution is voted on the floor, the members will vote on each of the 18 articles of impeachment and not on the resolution as a whole."

Today is the first official meeting of the special committee tasked to review and make recommendations to the full House on a resolution impeaching Fitial for 18 allegations of corruption, neglect of duty, and felony.

The meeting will start at 9am, and will be held in the House chamber on Capital Hill. It is open to the public and is aired live on Channel 60.

Sablan said the committee meetings will be held every work day thereafter until Feb. 1.

Among the "neglect of duty" allegations are the governor's failure to appoint for several months a CNMI Supreme Court chief justice, Civil Service Commission members, Public Utilities Commission members, a Department of Public Lands secretary, a Department of Public Works secretary, and a Department of Public Safety commissioner.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Rep. Janet Maratita (IR-Saipan), center, confers with Rep. Larry Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), left, during a break in the House's session on Tuesday on Capital Hill. Also in photo is Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan).

LEGISLATURE

From Page 1

"To wait until next year will cause greater uncertainty among stakeholders," he said.

He said businesses, for example, should be able to plan at least a year or two ahead whether to expand, retain or close their business.

He said if there are no skilled and professional foreign workers available and the U.S. workers pool is still not enough, then there is no sense keeping their business open. In the end, the tourism industry and the whole econo-

my will suffer.

Sablan believes that how the U.S. government addresses the issue of long-term legal foreign workers in the CNMI could determine its action on the millions of illegal migrant workers in the United States, instead of the other way around.

At the Senate, Hofschneider said he will give the task of revising the status recommendation as well as position statement on the transition period, to the Committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agencies. He used to chair this committee in the previous Legislature.

He said the CNMI's tourism-based

economic development relies on businesses' continued ability to access foreign workers if the existing U.S. worker pool is still unable to meet industry needs.

"We would ask for an extension of the transition period until 2019, at the same time, recommend improved status to certain guest workers," he said.

Hofschneider said the Senate FRIA panel would be working with other agencies, the foreign workers, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands in coming up with an updated recommendation on the sta-

tus of foreign workers and the transition period.

Rene Reyes, founding president of Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd., reiterated yesterday their position that long-term legal foreign workers should be granted improved immigration status, including "green card." This has also been the long-time request of other worker groups such as Dekada Movement and United Workers Movement-NMI.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) is also working on a broader version of his H.R. 1466 granting CNMI-only resident status to five groups of foreigners in the CNMI.

SDLLC

From Page 1

against the sole-source, 25-year PPA.

The Fitial administration has agreed with the AG's legal opinion, but not SDLLC.

In paid advertisements in CNMI newspapers today, SDLLC explained the advantages of its proposed new power plant over the main power plant on Saipan. *(See full-page ad inside)*

"Due to drastic improvements in technology, power produced at the new plant would cost significantly less," it said.

It cited the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s cost data as of Sept. 30, 2012.

Based on the CUC data, the existing power plant generates 14.27 kilowatts

per gallon of fuel consumed whereas a new power plant will provide 20 kilowatts per gallon of fuel, SDLLC said.

SDLLC said if fuel costs average \$4.281 per gallon, saving \$4.8 million gallons of fuel would reduce power production costs by more than \$20 million per year.

"During the 25-year timeline, these savings would total more than half a billion dollars. In fact, savings realized during the first four years of operation will exceed the cost of the new plant. These savings should dramatically reduce the cost of power to Saipan consumers," SDLLC said.

The Fitial administration and SDLLC had been saying that the PPA would result in lower power cost for CUC customers now paying over 30 cents per kwh.

SDLLC, in its "open letter to the people of the CNMI," reiterated that the estimated \$70 million cost of the power plant has been reported correctly by some media.

"However, this cost would not be paid up front. It would be amortized through a 25-year lease arrangement allowed under the CNMI rules. This financial arrangement enables the CUC to keep the cost per kilowatt-hour as low as possible during the repayment period. When the amortization and interest are paid, the CNMI would own the power plant," SDLLC added.

But while the estimated cost of building the power plant is \$70 million, the amount would balloon to \$190.8 million because of financing. These are based on figures in the PPA itself and

SDLLC officials' previous statements.

SDLLC's "open letter" also said it understands that the price of fuel and the kilowatt-hours needed may change. But it said one figure is constant—the "cost per kilowatt generated per gallon of fuel used"—even if other factors change, the reduction in fuel usage will continue to provide an ongoing savings and benefit to Saipan consumers in terms of lower power costs.

SDLLC said its letter presents factual information used in the development of the SDLLC proposal and in discussions with numerous government and elected officials.

"We feel it is unfair and irresponsible for individuals to repeatedly issue false, unsupported, damaging statements. Those doing so should be held accountable and required to produce

factual documentation to substantiate their accusations," SDLLC added.

Rep. Janet Maratita (IR-Saipan), the lead plaintiff in a lawsuit against the PPA, said yesterday that she has yet to see SDLLC's advertisement. However, she said the people of the CNMI are not stupid to believe the whole open letter.

"I believe this is an ad of desperation. The people of the CNMI are not stupid to fall for this kind of ad. They continue to disrespect the court process, and the Office of the Attorney General already issued a legal opinion stating that the PPA is illegal and cannot be enforced," she said.

The governor's signing of the PPA is also among the issues included in a pending resolution impeaching Fitial for 18 allegations of corruption, neglect of duty, and felony.

CDA to heed Fitial's call to improve tourism industry

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority is taking a "pro-active" approach in the government's efforts to improve the CNMI as a destination by offering financial assistance to companies that provide tourism-related services.

Executive director Manuel A. Sablan said yesterday that he met on Tuesday with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial who sought the agency's support in promoting the islands' primary industry.

"Anything that would promote tourism, we're behind it," he said in an interview.

Established to provide economic loan funds to private and public sectors for economic development, CDA continues to promote investment opportunities in the Commonwealth, according to Sablan.

He said there is a need for the agency to project itself as pro-growth and pro-economic development especially at a time when tourist arrivals are on the rise with the additional charter flights.

Sablan emphasized that the

need to upgrade and renovate existing tourism facilities and infrastructure in the Northern Marianas means potential investments that would generate economic activities in the islands.



Sablan

As the CNMI's tourism industry picks up, Sablan said that the lack of hotel rooms to accommodate visitors presents a "good problem" since it offers an opportunity for businesses to expand.

Sablan said that CDA has several loan programs that would aid both existing and new investors in taking advantage of the upswing in the islands' number one industry.

Asked if there are companies that have sought their assistance for tourism-related endeavors, Sablan replied that only Saipan Surfrider, LLC has yet to do so.

The company, which is applying for CDA's qualifying certificate program, plans to build Surfrider Resort Spa & Beach Club at the site of the defunct Pacific Gardenia and Silver Hotel in Chalan Kanoa to address the growing demand on Saipan's tourism industry and as

part of a wider effort to revitalize the island's former capital.

Sablan said that Saipan Surfrider, LLC is scheduled to make a presentation in their

February board meeting before the agency decides on the application.

He added that acquisition plans of E-Land and other foreign

investors are also "positive news" that would aid the government's efforts in attracting tourists particularly from the China market which Sablan de-

scribed as "evolving."

For more information on CDA's loan programs, visit their office along Middle Road or call 234-6245.



TEAM BUILDING

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Rita H. Inos High School juniors and seniors work in teams during the team building exercise portion of the Start Smart seminar recently hosted by the Northern Marianas College.

Ex-convict gets 5 years in jail for 2 robbery cases

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo has slapped a five-year jail term against an ex-convict who robbed a man and a tourist in separate incidents in 2011 and 2012.

Following a plea agreement, Govendo on Tuesday sentenced Michael Jordan Cabrera to 10 years in prison, all suspended except five years.

The 24-year-old Cabrera was given credit for 330 days that he already served in jail.

Govendo ordered the defendant to spend the jail term day for day without the possibility of parole.

Upon release from the Department of Corrections, Cabrera will be placed on supervised probation for five years. He was required to pay \$180 in restitution to Ming Zhe Li, a \$1,000 fine, \$300 court costs, and \$500 probation fees.

The defendant was also ordered to write a letter of apology

to Ming Zhe Li, Li Wen Fan, and Fan's companion, Fen Zu.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Cabrera with robbery, assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and conspiracy to commit robbery.

In the second case, the OAG charged the defendant with one count of theft, one count of robbery, two counts of disturbing the peace, one count of resisting arrest, and four counts of criminal contempt.

Cabrera signed a plea agreement with the government. He pleaded guilty to robbery and conspiracy to commit robbery in the first case, and pleaded guilty to robbery in the other case.

In exchange for the plea deal, the OAG moved to dismiss the remaining charges.

Cabrera agreed to provide a full statement to police officers, identifying his co-conspirators and details of his co-conspirators' involvement in these crimes.

Cabrera's co-defendants in the first case are Franklin Jesse

Atalig and Shane Indalecio Ada.

According to the plea agreement, on Oct. 23, 2011, Cabrera and Atalig jumped into Ming Zhe Li's vehicle which was parked in front of Town House Store in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan.

One of the defendants choked Mr. Li while the other pointed a seven-inch long sashimi knife to Li's chest.

The defendants robbed Li of his wallet containing \$107 cash, a driver's license, and photos. Atalig and Cabrera fled the scene and were later picked up by co-defendant Ada in a getaway vehicle not far from the location of the robbery.

In the second case, on Oct. 15, 2012 on Saipan, Cabrera snatched the purse from the arm of Japanese tourist, Li Wen Fan. He ran away, causing Fan to fall to the ground.

Police officers spotted Cabrera, who ran for several minutes to avoid being arrested. At the time, the defendant was on probation for a previous criminal conviction.

Public invited to Chamorro Cultural Fest

SAN DIEGO, Calif.—The public is invited to attend the 4th Annual Chamorro Cultural Fest, a celebration of the food, music, art and dance of the Pacific Chamorro people. The event offers free entertainment and activities at The Market Creek Plaza in southeast San Diego at 310 Euclid Avenue, on March 23, 2013, from 10am to 6pm.

Free cultural workshops are

offered for all ages. Participants may enjoy weaving, dancing, or learning about the construction methods of the ancient Chamorros. A live stage will feature Chamorro traditional performers as well as contemporary artists. Island vendors come from far and wide to offer unique crafts and gift items. A raffle will award a trip to the Marianas or an iPad to the winning ticket holders.

The cultural event serves the

San Diego community as well as Chamorros who come from as far away as Washington, D.C. and the Chamorro Marianas islands of Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan in the western Pacific. This event is organized by the Che'lu, a non-profit organization of San Diego, California. You can learn how to participate by visiting their website at www.CheluSD.org or emailing info@chelusd.org. (PR)

LAOLAO BAY GOLF & RESORT

GOLF LESSON PROGRAM @ The Range

Monthly Membership:
\$100/month unlimited balls

Ball Coupons:
\$30/10BOXES
plus 2BOXES FREE
Valid for 2 months from the issue date

Putting Lesson
Short Game Lesson
Swing Analysis
AVAILABLE ONLY on the grass of
LAOLAO BAY GOLF & RESORT

Christian Lee
U.S. Golf Teaching Foundaion
Certified Golf Instructor
Former International Golf Academy Instructor

BUD NIGHT @ The Range

Driving Range Promotion
"Bud Night at The Range"
Every Friday Night

Free 3 balls to join short games
for every purchase of a Beer Bucket
\$5 for 3 balls to join games

Short Games
Hitting Tables (50 yards)
Blind Shots (30 yards)

For more information
Please call 236-8831 / 287-0501 (Mr. Lee, Pro Golf Instructor / LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort Head Coach)

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST,
Plaintiff,

vs.
JAMES D. CABRERA,
Defendant.

Civil Action
No. 11-0094

NOTICE OF
AUCTION
and
JUDICIAL
SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 5th day of July, 2012, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendant, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **22nd day of February, 2013 at 10 a.m.**, at the Marianas Public Land Trust conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot/Tract No. 011 G 243, containing an area of 865 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official DLS Check No. 011 G 05, the original of which was recorded on December 16, 1993 as Document No. 93-4413 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. **Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
- to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- to reject any and all bids.

2. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.

3. **Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to MPLT.

4. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and MPLT reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 14th day of January, 2013.

/s/Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Delta Air Lines is first title sponsor for 2013 MMAC

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delta Air Lines became the first title sponsor for the 2013 Marianas March Against Cancer after donating yesterday airline tickets and travel vouchers for the upcoming fundraiser dedicated to raising cancer awareness in the community.

Title sponsorship for MMAC, the annual signature fundraising event of Commonwealth Cancer Association, is given to companies that donate \$3,000 or more in cash, products or services and is considered the event's highest level of sponsorship.

Delta Air Lines sales and marketing representatives Christopher Concepcion and Esther Sound presented MMAC Committee members one roundtrip ticket to the U.S., a roundtrip



CLARISSA V. DAVID

2013 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee chair Emanuel Borja, fourth right, is joined by other committee members as he accepts the ceremonial airline ticket from Delta Air Lines sales and marketing representatives Christopher Concepcion and Esther Sound during the brief ceremony at the airline's check-in counter at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport yesterday morning.

ticket to Japan, and \$300 worth of travel vouchers in a brief ceremony at their check-in counter at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The donation will be among the exciting prizes to be given away in the raffle draw during the MMAC event slated for April 26-27 at the Hopwood Jr. High

School Field in Chalan Piao.

"Delta Air Lines is a tireless supporter in the fight against cancer. We're humbled by this opportunity to become a title sponsor. We wish the committee luck in raising funds for this great cause," said Concepcion, who is also a MMAC volunteer.

For his part, 2013 MMAC

Committee overall chair Emanuel Borja said they are very happy to have Delta Air Lines on board their roster of sponsors for the event which is now on its 11th year.

One of the major airline companies servicing the CNMI, Delta Air Lines is the second business to step up and express support for

EPA issues CNMI Toxics Release Inventory data for 2011

SAN FRANCISCO—Toxic chemicals managed, treated or released into the environment from facilities operating in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands decreased in 2011 when compared to 2010, according to the latest Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) data available from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"Community Right-to-Know data helps all of us remain aware of the types and amounts of chemicals being used in our neighborhoods," said Jared Blumenfeld, EPA's Regional Administrator for the Pacific Southwest. "It is great to see pollution prevention activities at reporting facilities, and we encourage them to reduce their chemical releases via this method."

In 2011, the CNMI releases dropped by 42 percent (2,345

lbs) due mostly to a 66-percent drop (1,462 lbs) in Mobil Oil Mariana Islands (Saipan Terminal) air releases of toluene.

Release data alone are not sufficient to determine exposure or to calculate potential risks to human health and the environment. TRI data, in conjunction with other information, such as the toxicity of the chemical, the release medium (e.g., air), and site-specific conditions, may be used in evaluating exposures that may result from releases of toxic chemicals.

EPA has a new tracking tool that features facilities that reported they have new pollution prevention (P2) practices that have often reduced their releases of TRI chemicals. The tool can be found at: www.epa.gov/tri/p2. The tool can be used to track and compare TRI facility P2 performance, identify facilities

CNMI Total Releases for Reporting Years 2009-2011

Year	Air	Water	Underground Injection	On-site Land	Off-site	Total releases
2009	5,778	-	-	2	328	6,108
2010	4,368	76	-	1	1,124	5,569
2011	2,957	266	-	1	-	3,224

CNMI Facilities with Largest Chemical Releases

	Name	City	Total Releases
1	MARIANA ACQUISITION CORP/SAIPAN TERMINAL	SAIPAN	2,181
2	MOBIL OIL MARIANA ISLANDS INC (SAIPAN TERMINAL)	SAIPAN	759
3	MOBIL OIL MARIANA ISLANDS INC (SAIPAN AVIATION DEPOT)	SAIPAN	281
4	HAWAIIAN ROCK PRODUCTS SAIPAN	SAIPAN	3
5	MOBIL OIL MARIANA ISLANDS INC (ROTA BULK PLANT)	ROTA	-
	Total		3,224

that reported reductions in toxic chemical releases due to P2 efforts, identify the P2 measures that were effective for a given industry or chemical, compare waste management practices of facilities within a sector, and view trends in waste management practices for facilities over several years.

In 2012, the EPA reached out to hundreds of communities nationwide through workshops, video-conferences, and webinars to help communities to better use TRI data to protect their environments. Grassroots partners in environmental justice communities, such as the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice in Jurupa

Valley, California, helped EPA improve its outreach approaches to better serve diverse neighborhoods. Many of the online resources are listed in the "TRI Toolbox" below:

TRI Toolbox:

■ TRI Explorer is a tool that you can use to see the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) data. It allows a user to look at data by state, county, or zip code; by chemical; or by industry. It provides maps a user can click on to find TRI facilities, chemicals and industries in a particular area. <http://www.epa.gov/triexplorer>

■ For more on the TRI program including additional city,

MMAC. Last month, Traders Insurance donated to the cause for the first time and became a major sponsor.

"We need all the help that we can get from the business community. They are a great asset in this fight against cancer," Borja told *Saipan Tribune*.

Committee member Catherine Attao-Toves disclosed that they are in the process of reaching out to potential teams that would participate in this year's event. So far, 7 out of the 16 teams that participated last year have signed up for the 2013 MMAC.

"There's no deadline. As long as they jump on board even a week before the event, we will still get them going," she added.

For more information, email emanuel.borja@gmail.com or call 989-1987.

county and facility information, please visit the EPA's Web sites: <http://www.epa.gov/tri>, and <http://www.epa.gov/enviro>.

■ The Spanish TRI website is at: <http://www.epa.gov/tri/myrtk/spanish/index.htm>

■ For information geared toward communities please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/tri/communities/index.html>

■ EPA TRI Pollution Prevention Tool: www.epa.gov/tri/p2

■ State fact sheets are available at: <http://www.epa.gov/region09/toxic/tri/> and <http://www.epa.gov/triexplorer/state-factsheet.htm>.

■ For more information on the PBT Chemicals Program, please visit the EPA's Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/pbt>

The annual data is from the EPA's Toxics Release Inventory, one of the EPA's largest publicly available databases. The annual TRI reporting began in 1988 after the enactment of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986. The chemical information in the inventory is calculated by industrial facilities and reported to the EPA. Total releases include toxic chemicals discharged by facilities to air, water, land, and underground, and the amount transferred off-site for disposal. Pollution controls apply to many of the reported releases. Reporting facilities must comply with environmental standards set by local, state and federal agencies. (*EPA*)

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

SOLEDAD S. BUENSUCESO-JUACHON,
Petitioner,

versus

ANTHONY I. JUACHON,
Respondent.

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Imwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 5th day of August, 2012.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Gloria M. Khan,
Petitioner,

vs.

Ashiku Khan,
Respondent.

FCD-DI CIVIL
ACTION
NO. 11-0220

SUMMONS
FOR
PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is **P.O. Box 505464, Saipan, MP 96950**, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief in the Complaint.

DATED, this 23rd day of January, 2013:

/s/Clerk of Court



(1) Landscaping Supervisor

Responsibilities include but are not limited to: Plans, schedule, assign and supervise the landscaping, seeding, weeding, cultivating, and general care of the hotel grounds. Plans and supervises cultivation, pruning, spraying and transplanting of a large variety of shrubs and trees. Plans and supervise operation of a greenhouse. Train and supervise crew of groundskeepers. Responsible for the maintenance of equipment used on the job site. Must have 3 years experience in horticulture or landscape architecture at supervisory level. Must have knowledge of how to protect trees and plants from diseases and insect infections. Strong customer service skills. Requires occasionally lifting of heavy objects and exposure to weather. Must be able to work a varied schedule including week-ends and holidays.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr_@fiestasaipan.com; Applications forms may be obtained at our Security Office at the South Wing. To be considered applications must be submitted not later than January 28, 2013. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Prayer † to the HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit Thou who makes me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. **AMEN.**

Say this prayer for three days without mentioning the favor you are asking for. After the third day, the wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this prayer as soon as your favor has been granted.

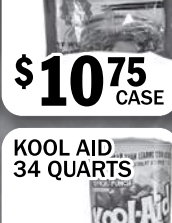
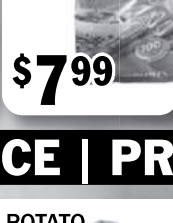
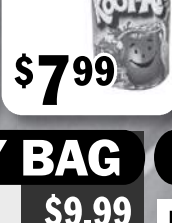
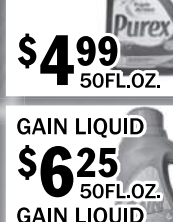
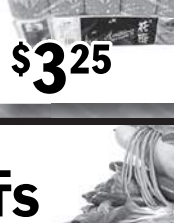
WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMP!**OPENS: Monday - Sunday 7:00am - 11:00pm**

GREEN CONSUME MARKET II

Chalan-Lau Lau across Coca-Cola • 235-6682/83

JANUARY SALE

- With the minimum purchase of \$20.00 and up, you will have a chance to win \$200 CASH and lots of prizes!
- Buy \$150 worth of groceries and get FREE Hair Dryer

JAN. 24 - FEB. 24, 2013**GROCERIES & FROZEN****CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED****DIAMOND G RICE**
50LB.**\$26⁹⁹****QUARTER LEG CHICKEN**
33LB.**\$26⁷⁵ CASE**
\$18⁷⁵ CASE**WHOLE CHICKEN**
30LB.**\$39⁹⁹****PORK BABY RIBS**
10LB.**\$21⁷⁵ CASE****PORK SPARE RIBS**
20LB.**\$22⁵⁰ CASE****U.S. XLARGE EGGS****\$2³⁵ DOZEN****LOTUS RICE**
50LB.**\$23⁹⁹****GROUND BEEF**
5LB.**\$11⁹⁹****PORK BUTT****\$1⁹⁹ /LB.****GUSTO CHOPHAM**
5LB.**\$8⁹⁹****BAR S BACON****\$3²⁹****BAR-S HOTDOG****\$1¹⁹****GROUND BEEF****\$21⁵⁰ 10LB.****SEA WAVE CALAMARI****\$1⁹⁹ 1LB.****MILKFISH****\$1⁴⁵ PER LB.****GROCERIES | FROZEN MEAT | GROCERIES | FROZEN MEAT | GROCERIES | FROZEN MEAT****BROWN N' SERVE****\$1⁶⁹****HOFFY PORTUGUESE SAUSAGE**
120Z.**\$2³⁵****HOFFY SMOKED SAUSAGE****\$4⁹⁹****CHAMORRO SAUSAGE****\$4⁵⁹ 160Z.****CHORIZOS**
3LB.**\$16⁵⁰****SPAM****\$2³⁹ EA. LIMIT 5****BLACK LABEL LUNCHEON LOAF****\$1⁷⁵ EA.****OX & PALM LUNCHEON LOAF****\$1⁷⁹ EA.****LIBBY'S VIENNA SAUSAGE****\$11⁹⁹ CS.**
65¢ EA.**HORMEL CORNED BEEF HASH****\$2⁴⁹ EA.****ARMOUR VIENNA SAUSAGE****\$9⁹⁹ 18 CANS****CALIFORNIA SARDINES**
425G**\$1⁹⁹ EA.****ACE DIAMOND TUNA****\$1⁴⁹ EA.****CAMPBELL'S CHICKEN NOODLES****99¢ EA.****DINTY MOORE BEEF STEW**
150Z.**\$1⁹⁹ EA.****SAPPORO ICHIBAN RAMEN****\$10⁷⁵ CASE****NONG SHIM BOWL NOODLES****\$8²⁵ CASE****KELLOGG'S FAMILY PACK TRI-PAK****\$12⁹⁹****LUCKY CHARMS TRI-PAK****\$8⁹⁹****WHOLE KERNEL CORN****99¢ EA.****OX & PALM HAM****\$3⁹⁹****DRAGON VEGETABLE OIL****\$9⁵⁰****SOYBEAN OIL (100% PURE)****\$29⁹⁹ 5 GAL.****MAXWELL COFFEE MIX 100 STICKS****\$7⁹⁹****COFFEE MATE 50 OZ.****\$7⁹⁹****KIKOMAN SOYSAUCE 1.6L.****\$4²⁵ EA.****KOOL AID 34 QUARTS****\$7⁹⁹****TANG 22 QRT.****\$7⁹⁹****NESTEA 40 QRT.****\$7⁹⁹****CAPRISUN/KOOL AID JAMMERS****\$2⁹⁹****SUNKIST****\$6⁷⁵ CS.****MOO CHOCO MILK with FREE Lunch Bag****\$10⁹⁹ CS.****ASAHI****\$18⁹⁹ CS.****PRODUCE | PRODUCE****ONIONS****69¢ PER LB.****POTATO****89¢ PER LB.****GARLIC 5 PCS.****\$1¹⁹****PECHAY****50¢ PER BAG****GREEN CABBAGE****99¢ PER LB.****FUJI APPLE****\$3⁹⁹ PER BAG****CANTALOUPE****\$1¹⁹ PER LB.****HONEYDEW****\$1¹⁹ PER LB.****ORANGE****99¢ PER LB.****FAMILY BAG****PORK CHOP****\$9⁹⁹****PORK HOCKS****\$8⁹⁹****PORK BELLY****\$9⁹⁹****BEEF BACKRIBS****\$8⁹⁹****BEEF STEW****\$9⁹⁹****BEEF RIB EYE****\$15⁹⁹****PORK ADOBO****\$9⁹⁹****STEWING CHICKEN****\$5⁹⁹****CHICKEN WINGS****\$9⁹⁹****CHICKEN LEG QUARTER****\$5⁹⁹****CHICKEN NUGGETS****\$4⁹⁹****FISH STICKS****\$4⁹⁹****NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD****HEAD & SHOULDER**
420ML.**\$5⁹⁹****HEAD & SHOULDER**
700ML.**\$7⁹⁹****CREAMSILK CONDITIONER****\$2⁶⁹****PUREX ULTRA****\$4⁹⁹ 50FL.OZ.****LUVS FAMILY PACK (BOX) ALL SIZES****\$17⁹⁹****MEGA DRYERS LARGE****\$10⁹⁹****GAIN LIQUID**
50FL.OZ.**\$6²⁵****GAIN LIQUID**
100 OZ.**\$10⁹⁹****TOILET TISSUE 10 ROLLS****\$3²⁵****JOY ULTRA 90 OZ.****\$7⁹⁹****DAWN 90 OZ.****\$9⁹⁹****CAR TOYS \$39⁰⁰ to \$125⁰⁰****RUBBER DONKEY \$10⁹⁹****BLANKET \$13⁹⁹****BEDSHEET COVER \$16⁹⁹****EVERYDAY LOW PRICE****THE #1 FRESH LOCAL VEGETABLES & FRUITS****EVERY WEEKEND SPECIAL SALE**

CHC asks federal court to certify Fund questions to high court

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center has asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to certify questions of the CNMI Supreme Court regarding NMI Retirement Fund issues.

Assistant attorney general Michael Stanker, counsel for CHC, on Friday requested the federal court to certify legal questions to the CNMI high court if the court elects to not dismiss the Fund's

lawsuit against the CHC.

Stanker said the federal court should submit certified questions seeking guidance from the CNMI Supreme Court on whether the Fund possess the standing and capacity to sue the CNMI government.

Stanker said the other issues that need guidance are the following:

■ The CNMI government owes contract rights as protected by the U.S. Constitution and the CNMI Constitution.

■ The Fund possesses rights against the CNMI government under the CNMI Constitution.

■ The nature of the indemnification/contribution that the CNMI government owes to the Fund.

■ The Fund can seek to appoint a receiver over the CNMI government.

"These important issues, which solely implicate Commonwealth law, have not been ruled on by the CNMI Supreme Court, and the Commonwealth

courts should be given the opportunity to pass judgments on these important questions of local law and policy," Stanker said.

Stanker said the Fund's lawsuit against CHC should also be dismissed on the basis that the federal court lacks jurisdiction.

Last month, the Fund filed an amended complaint against CHC, Northern Marianas College, and the Public School System for allegedly failing to remit employer contributions to the pension agency.

Rotary decides theme for 2013 Parade of Books

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan has set "Legends and Myths of the Marianas and Micronesia" as the 2013 theme for the Parade of Books event in April.

Rotarian and event coordinator Reina Camacho said on Tuesday that having a theme for the annual event is meant to challenge participating schools in their performances.

Parade of Books is a competition open to all elementary schools in the CNMI and aimed

at encouraging literacy and creativity in a fun and innovative way by allowing them to create a performance reflecting the book they read to win cash prizes.



Camacho

Up for grabs is \$1,000 for first place, \$750 for second place, \$500 for third place, \$300 for fourth place, \$200 for fifth place, and \$100 as consolation prizes.

"All participating students must have read the book, or in this case, the legend or myth before auditioning for the school's performance," said Camacho.

She revealed that three schools—Garapan and Koblerville elementary schools and Mount Carmel School—have confirmed participation and have been attending meetings in preparation for the upcoming event to be held on Saturday, April 13.

Camacho said that of the three registered participants, Garapan Elementary School is the only one

who has submitted the title of the book they will interpret, which is "Legend of the Flame Tree."

"Although the deadline to register is March 1st, I'm encouraging all CNMI elementary school teams, private and public schools, to register immediately to begin preparations," she added.

Camacho invited interested participants to attend their next meeting at 4pm on Monday, Jan. 28 at McDonald's on Middle Road.

To register or for more information, email reinacamacho@gmail.com or saipanrotary@gmail.com.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

ChaCha Oceanview HS/ Kages PTSA meeting today

ChaCha Oceanview Junior High School and Kagman Elementary School will be holding a joint PTSA meeting from 5pm to 6pm today at the Tanapag Elementary School.

Parents and/or guardians of students at ChaCha Oceanview Junior High School and Kagman Elementary School are encouraged to attend the urgent meeting.

For more information, call Kagman High School main office at 664-3780, ChaCha Junior High School at 664-4100, or Kagman Elementary School at 664-3911. (PR)

Tinian Municipal Council organization meeting this Saturday

The 14th Tinian Municipal Council will be holding their organizational meeting this coming Saturday, Jan. 26, starting 9am at the Tinian Municipal Council conference room. (PR)

Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Jan. 21-25 from 8:30am to 4pm. The public—especially

fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. (PR)

ARC sets health, safety trainings

The American Red Cross is scheduled to conduct Preparedness Health & Safety trainings on the following dates:

- Jan. 26 at 8am - Adult CPR/AED
- Jan. 30 at 6pm - Infant & Child CPR/AED
- Jan. 31 at 6pm - Adult CPR/AED Blended Learning

Classes are held at the chapter training room on Airport Road. Course fees apply. For more information on the courses listed or other certification courses, contact the chapter office at 234-3459. (PR)

Search on for 'Couple Married Longest'

The CNMI Chapter of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Community is joining other Marriage Encounter groups around the United States in searching for the "Couple Married Longest in the CNMI." The Couple Married Longest search is being conducted

in preparation for honoring World Marriage Day on Sunday, Feb. 10, 2013. If you have been married for over 50 years, or if you know of friends or relatives who have been, and both spouses are still living, email their names, phone numbers and wedding date to cnmiwmd@yahoo.com. The deadline for all entries is Jan. 31, 2013. The winning couple will be honored with a WWME World Marriage Day Certificate at one of the selected World Marriage Day Masses. (PR)

CCA sets general membership meeting

All friends, volunteers, partners, and clients of the Commonwealth Cancer Association and all members of the community are invited to the general membership meeting on Jan. 24, 2013 at 5:30pm at CCA's Conference Room in Gualo Rai.

The agenda will include the 2012 annual report of the president and treasurer, election of four CCA board members, and an opportunity for public comments. Nominations for board members will be accepted on the floor. For more information, contact CCA at 682-0050 or email ccamarianas@gmail.com. (CCA)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 24, 2000

Sablan says CNMI must show real island hospitality

The Marianas Visitors Authority will now make sure that the thousands of Navy personnel who arrive here on the island for a few days of rest and recreation will experience the real island hospitality. MVA board chair Dave M. Sablan said he believes that the tourism agency should coordinate efforts of various government agencies in extending assistance to the various vessels that arrive in Saipan. Mr. Sablan noted that the Navy personnel are also carrying out community work during their stay. So far, they have already provided free medical consultation and helped in the repair of the Tinian clinic.

Make-A-Wish Foundation raises \$35,000

They all came dressed for the occasion. But it was more than customary gala ball as those attending were there to make dreams come true for children faced with life-threatening illness. More than a hundred people shelled out money for the \$100-a-plate dinner and an auction that followed during the first ever gala affair of the Make-A-Wish Foundation CNMI Division held at the Diamond Hotel last Saturday. At least \$35,000 were raised that evening, funds that will go the foundation's beneficiaries who are all children in the CNMI wanting to fulfill their wishes and dreams as they are faced with health conditions that could break them.

Jan. 24, 2001

NMC recovers \$.5M in payment dues

The implementation of stern collection policies at the Northern Marianas College is beginning to gain ground, according to the NMC Business Office, noting a remarkable improvement in students' tuition payment habits. Since the Board of Regents last year instigated moves to employ stricter collection efforts, the college has recouped roughly around \$585,000 of outstanding student dues since Sept. 2000, out of the long overdue \$2.8 million worth of tuition debts. According to the Business Office, some \$2.184 in receivables still need to be recovered. "We really insisted that nobody be permitted to enroll unless they pay something. And this is having a positive effect on our collection efforts," said the Business Office.

OVR reaching out to more clients

From 1998 to year 2000, the Office of the Vocational Rehabilitation noted the dramatic increase on the total number of individuals with disabilities who received various assistance packages from the agency. Based on the FY 2000 Annual Report released by the OVR since 1998, the agency has already extended assistance to at least 450 individuals of different ethnicity and age group. Under the consumer profile of the report, OVR in 1998 served more than 130 consumers, 157 in 1999, and 162 in 2000. Of the these, 62 percent are Chamorro, 15 percent are Carolinians, seven percent are Palauan and three percent are Chuukese.

Jan. 24, 2002

OPA looks into Group Health regs

The Office of the Public Auditor has begun meeting with different health providers in the CNMI, as it subjects to a preliminary review the proposed changes in the rules and regulations governing the Group Health and Life Insurance Program. In line with this, Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan said he would soon be initiating a meeting with House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider and Rep. Benjamin Seman to discuss the scope and limitations of the OPA review on the proposed regulation changes. "We have done some preliminary work but before we get too far on this project, what I would really like to do is sit down again with the Speaker and the chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare to make sure that we have the scope defined to meet their [lawmakers] needs," said Sablan.

Generators emit over 20 tons of pollutant

More than 20,000 tons of nitrogen oxides—a pollutant usually emitted by generators—are potentially released into the air annually in the Commonwealth, according to the Division of Environmental Quality. Most of the 25 sources identified by the regulatory agency are hotels and factories using big generators, but the power plants of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation topped the list. The four power plants of the CUC potentially releases 15,984 tons of nitrogen oxides yearly, according to Kevin Castro, the DEQ's air program specialist. One of the utility company's power plants has an 11,550-ton potential emission per year, he said.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to Jenny Marie Cabrera. May God bless you and hope your special day brings you all that your heart desires with blessings and happiness! Wishing you a day full of pleasant surprises. Greetings coming out from Jake, Mom, Erica, J.R., JR III) Stevie, R.J., JoeChelle, the entire Cabrera family, and friends.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 6th birthday Jeremiah Ricky Cabrera Suel III, who is celebrating his birthday today, Jan. 24. May God bless you and may you be sealed with the gifts on your special day. Greetings coming out from Mom, Dad, Grandma Janet, Samirah, the entire family, and friends.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Sasha Pangelinan (Bolis). May God bless you on this very special day. Enjoy every bit that'll last were very blessed to have you as a friend. See you tonight. Greeting from Lany and James.

Open Letter to the People of the CNMI,

Two key factors will impact the economic future of the people of Saipan. They are: the creation of an affordable, reliable power supply; and, securing new employment opportunities. Saipan Development, LLC (SDLLC), is dedicated to addressing both of these issues.

SDLLC was created to develop an industrial park in the lower basin of Saipan. Specifically, SDLLC was created to complete plans developed by Allegiance Capital Corporation to construct a potential ship repair facility, or other facilities. During the last four years, we have met with key officials concerning property leases. During these discussions, SDLLC was approached by elected government officials seeking assistance in the development of a reliable, cost effective, sustainable power supply for the people of Saipan, and to help spur economic development on the island.

At its own expense, SDLLC researched issues associated with the existing, antiquated power plant, and contracted several engineering, construction and procurement companies to thoroughly assess potential solutions. SDLLC also worked closely with authorized government offices that provided input on Saipan’s needs in terms of reliability, current and projected usage rates, and lower electric rates for consumers.

At this point, SDLLC put together a proposal and submitted it to the CUC. We were given a directive by the CNMI government:

- **The end cost per kWh to the consumer should be lower than what is paid now**

All of this work was done at no cost to the CNMI, because it was also in the best interest of the industrial park development to ensure an adequate, reliable power supply for the development, and for future expansion.

The estimated \$70 million cost of the power plant has been reported correctly by some media. However, this cost would not be paid up front. It would be amortized through a 25-year lease arrangement allowed under the CNMI rules. This financial arrangement enables the CUC to keep the cost per kilowatt-hour as low as possible during the repayment period. When the amortization and interest are paid, the CNMI would own the power plant.

Due to drastic improvements in technology, power produced at the new plant would cost significantly less. Based upon cost data, provided by the CUC in their September 30, 2012, “Island Production Summary,” the existing power plant generates 14.27 kilowatts per gallon of fuel consumed. The new plant will provide 20 kilowatts per gallon of fuel.

During an average year, producing 240 million kilowatt-hours, the existing plant would use 16.8 million gallons of fuel. The same amount of power generated in the new plant would only use an estimated 12 million gallons. If fuel costs average \$4.281 per gallon, saving 4.8 million gallons of fuel would reduce power production costs by more than \$20 million per year. During the 25-year timeline, these savings would total more than half a billion dollars. In fact, the savings realized during the first four years of operation will exceed the cost of the new plant. These savings should dramatically reduce the cost of power to Saipan consumers.

We put together the following table to illustrate the cost savings a new power plant would provide:

Production	Cost of kilowatts per gallon	Kilowatt-hours needed on average over one year	Gallons consumed	Fuel costs based on \$4.281 per gallon
Current as of 9/30/2012	14.27 kW per gallon	240,000,000	16,818,500	\$72 million
New facility – specifications taken directly from generator manufacturer website	20 kW per gallon	240,000,000	12,000,000	\$51.4 million
SAVINGS	5.73 kW per gallon	Same	4,818,500 less	\$20.6 million

We understand the price of fuel and the kilowatt-hours needed may change. However, one figure is constant – the “cost per kilowatt generated per gallon of fuel used” – even if other factors change, the reduction in fuel usage will continue to provide an ongoing savings and benefit to Saipan consumers in terms of lower power costs.

This letter presents factual information used in the development of the SDLLC proposal and in discussions with numerous government and elected officials. We have committed hundreds of thousands of dollars toward the overall project. The development of a reliable, cost effective power supply for Saipan, and the potential creation of new job opportunities through future development are based upon these facts.

We feel it is unfair and irresponsible for individuals to repeatedly issue false, unsupported, damaging statements. Those doing so should be held accountable and required to produce factual documentation to substantiate their accusations.

The people of the CNMI deserve no less, and should demand that our opponents present clear and comprehensive proof for their allegations. A future that includes reliable, affordable power and potential economic development for the CNMI deserves your support.

SAIPAN DEVELOPMENT, LLC

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Threats migrate from Afghanistan to Mali and beyond

War," the 19th century humorist Ambrose Bierce allegedly said, "is God's way of teaching Americans geography." It's safe to say that until very recently, most of us couldn't have found Mali on a map—if, that is, we even knew there was such a country. But when the French government launched air strikes and sent ground troops into the West African nation, Mali suddenly demanded our collective attention.

Why should Americans care what happens there? Not because the United States is about to dispatch air or ground forces to help our ally. Not because it implicates any of our many military alliances or threatens one of our longtime partners. But because seemingly unimportant events in obscure, far-away lands can eventually lead to dire consequences—even for the world's only superpower.

We all learned that on Sept. 11, 2001, when a radical Islamist group harbored by the Afghan government crashed planes into the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon, killing nearly 3,000 people. Soon we were at war in Afghanistan—and we still are.

We drove al-Qaida largely out of that country and, over time, killed many of its leaders—including, in 2011, Osama bin Laden. But in doing so, we forced the terrorist organization to scatter, decentralize and find new confederates, in places from Pakistan to Yemen to Somalia.

During the 2012 presidential campaign, Barack Obama said al-Qaida was "on its heels." Lately, however, it has found more footholds outside its customary haunts in South Asia.

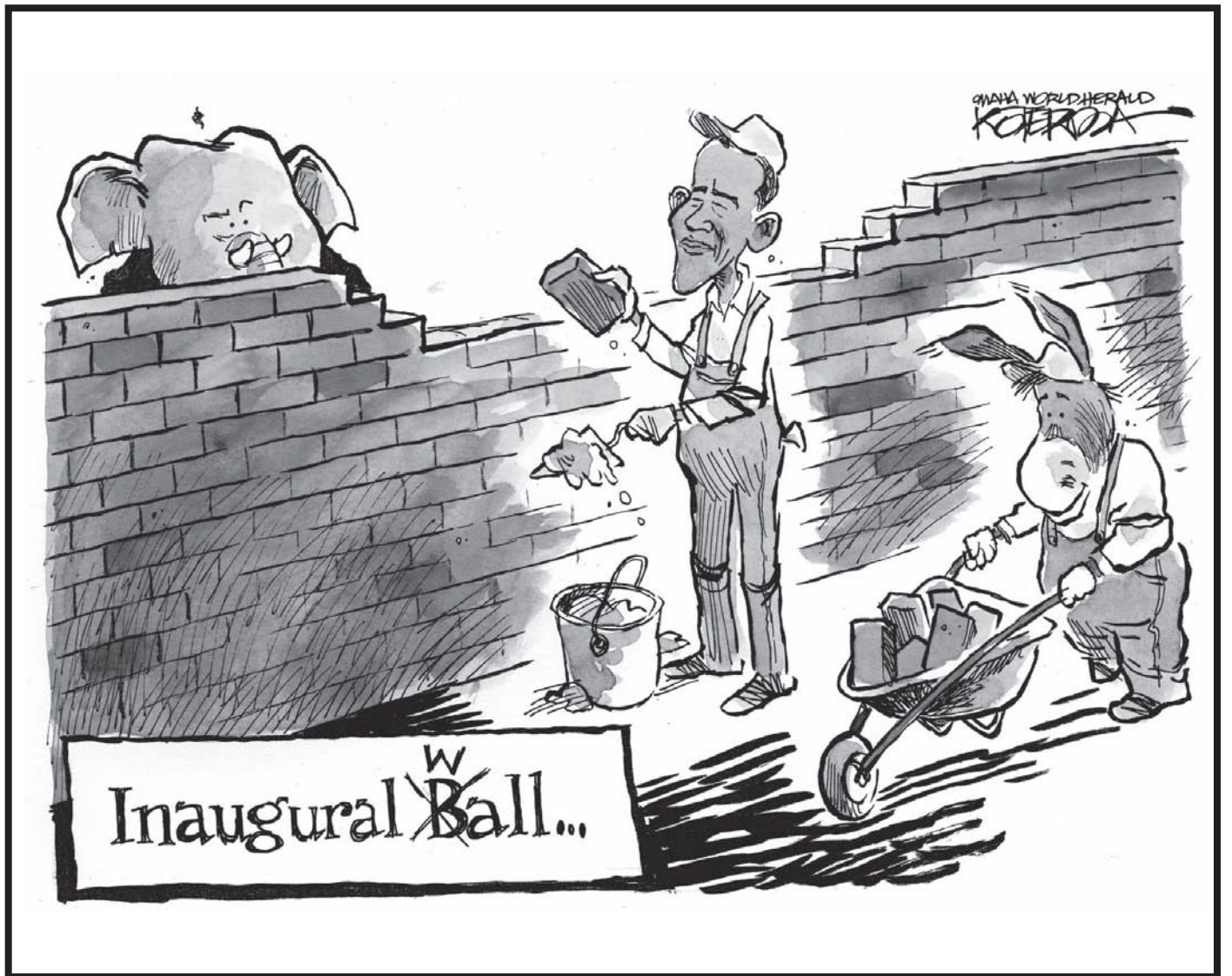
Africa may be the most important. "Over the past 10 months, jihadist forces have re-established the rule of Islamic law across northern Mali," writes journalist Peter Chilson on the website of Foreign Policy. "Northern Mali is currently the largest al-Qaida-controlled space in the world, an area a little larger than France itself." United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon fears it will become a "permanent haven for terrorists."

In response to France's offensive, Islamic militants attacked foreign-owned natural gas facilities in neighboring Algeria. A Saturday assault by the Algerian army ended the siege but brought the death toll during the three-day crisis to about two dozen hostages. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta says the original attack was "an al-Qaida operation." A group affiliated with al-Qaida also took part in the September attack on the U.S. consular office in Benghazi, Libya.

The French fear that, left unchecked, these extremists could create a threat to other African countries and even France. That may be overstated: Not all groups claiming the al-Qaida imprimatur have global ambitions. Nor are such ambitions necessarily plausible. But as the memory of 9/11 instructs, it's best to err on the side of vigilance.

So the Obama administration has good reason to offer help to the French, through such possible options as intelligence, refueling and air transport. The threat at this point is far from sufficient to justify direct U.S. military involvement. But it's clear that Mali is no longer a place Americans can ignore.

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Web fuels China's free-speech fight

We all understand the way the Internet has changed everything in the United States, from the way goods are sold to how news is distributed and political campaigns are run.

But in China, the growth in number of users, size of e-commerce markets, and profitability of the Internet has already exceeded, or will soon surpass, what has happened here. Some 564 million of the nation's 1.3 billion people were accessing the Internet in 2012, up 10 percent in a year. And the changes that behavior will bring to China are even more profound than what we've seen in the United States.

Weibo, a cross between Twitter and Facebook, claims twice as many messages per day as Twitter. Want to see what young Chinese are saying to one another? Google weibo.com and hit the translation link. E-commerce site Taobao, which sells a wide range of goods, reports sales of about \$15 billion per month—more than twice the combined revenue of Amazon and eBay. Even in the land of cooked books and phony numbers, this suggests a staggering turnover.

A mistake we Westerners often make in looking at China is to connect the dots too quickly. Chinese society and government are about as impenetrable as you can get, even for the Chinese themselves. There are too few dots and they are often misleading; even experienced observers are cautious about saying they understand what's really going on.

The recent ruckus about an editorial in the Guangzhou-based print publication Southern Weekly is a case in point. Some reports say a pro-free-expression editorial was yanked by the Communist Party censor and a pro-party piece put in its place, possibly without the editor's permission. Other reports paint a picture of a long struggle between a tough, new head of propaganda for the party in Guangdong Province and a regional paper that had been acting pretty independent. There were reportedly staff demonstrations; some employees may have gone on strike or been sacked or both.

Two weeks and hundreds of pages of international commentary later, neither we nor the Chinese public knows what really went on. We do know that the party seeks to continue its control of the media and to keep free expression in the

By **PETER GOLDMARK**
Newsday

Peter Goldmark, a former budget director of New York State, is a member of the State Budget Crisis Task Force. He wrote this for Newsday.



press and on the Internet down. It is now safe to say that the new paramount leader, Xi Jinping, who becomes president in March, faces the challenge of reviewing the role of the state and party in the media in general, and digital communication in particular.

We also know that beyond the huge and expanding e-commerce market and social media use, there is another Internet arena where a far more dangerous game plays out. And that is the endless cat-and-mouse game between people challenging traditional government-controlled news outlets and testing the limits of party control on one hand, and the various agencies of party and government that try to control digital expression on the other.

By email, Peter Herford, a former CBS News producer and now professor of journalism at Shantou University in China, walked me through the digital landscape in China and explained that in the complicated shadow war between the free-expressers and the censors, electronic algorithms were the key. As hundreds of millions of Chinese explore the world and reach out to foreign sites, even the thousands of state employees directly monitoring Web users cannot keep up. Millions of messages are sent each day on Weibo and other social media sites, and it can take minutes for an electronic algorithm to conclude something is suspicious—but it takes only a second for the free-expresser to anonymously or pseudonymously post a message and disappear.

In the United States last year, there were more views of "Gangnam Style" than of any other video. For Americans on the Internet, entertainment is king. In China, a subtler drama with higher stakes is unfolding that may bear powerfully on that nation's future.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Japan's leaders still won't acknowledge country's wartime atrocities

By **BILL GUTTENTAG** and **DAN STURMAN**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

This month 75 years ago, the people of Nanking, China's ancient capital city, were in the midst of one of the worst atrocities in history, the infamous Rape of Nanking. The truth of what actually happened is at the center of a bitter dispute between China and Japan that continues to play out in present-day relations. Many Chinese see Japan's election last month of ultraconservative nationalist Shinzo Abe as prime minister as just the latest in a string of insults. And it was recently reported that Japan is considering rolling back its 1993 apology regarding "comfort women," the thousands of women the Japanese army sexually enslaved during World War II.

In 1937, the Japanese Imperial Army, captured Nanking on Dec. 13. No one knows the exact toll the Japanese soldiers exacted on its citizens, but a postwar Allied investigation put the numbers at more than 200,000 killed and at least 20,000 women and girls raped in the six weeks after the city fell.

In 2006, we traveled to China and to Japan to interview victims and soldiers who took part in the massacre. One former Japanese soldier explained, without a hint of regret: "We all drew straws, and the man who pulled out the one marked first, he brushed off her face tenderly and treated her pretty, yes, and then proceeded to rape her. As their daughter was being raped, the parents would come outside and gesture to us, 'Please spare her!' They'd bang their heads on the ground and plead with us. We'd take one girl and five of us would hold her down."

In China, a 79-year-old man tearfully described how, at 9 years old, he watched a soldier bayonet his mother to death as she breast fed his brother. Another man saw his 13-year-old sister sliced in half by a Japanese soldier after she resisted being raped. Elderly women told harrowing stories of the rapes they endured as young girls.

It was the mass rapes in Nanking and the brutalization of an entire populace that eventually convinced Japanese military leaders that

they needed to contain the chaos. Japanese soldiers began rounding up women and forcing them to serve as sex slaves in so-called comfort stations.

This is what most historians believe. But not in Japan, where a large faction of conservatives, led by Abe, denies that the Japanese military forced women into sexual slavery. They maintain that any suggestion to the contrary is simply anti-Japanese propaganda and probably spread by China. At the furthest end of the spectrum, the minimizing turns to flat-out denial; one professor we interviewed at a top Japanese university adamantly insisted there were no killings or rapes in Nanking.

Not surprisingly, all this minimizing and denial enrages the Chinese and others in Asia. But this is a familiar pattern.

Abe has visited the controversial Yasukuni shrine in Tokyo and has said he plans to visit again as prime minister. This is the place where the souls of more than 2 million Japanese war dead are said to be enshrined. Among them are 14 men convicted at the end of World War II of what are known as Class-A war crimes, including Iwane Matsui, the general who led Japanese forces in Nanking. To the Chinese, every visit by an official is like ripping open an unhealed wound. Former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi went there six times, and his 2005 visit resulted in anti-Japanese riots in China.

It's also informative to walk just a few yards to the Yushukan, the museum affiliated with the Yasukuni shrine. There, as we surveyed the exhibits on the Great East Asian War (World War II to much of the rest of the world), we were surprised to learn that Franklin D. Roosevelt had forced Japan to go to war in a calculated effort to lift the U.S. out of the Depression. (This exhibit was recently revised to omit the Depression reference; now it just says the U.S. forced Japan into bombing Pearl Harbor.)

Then there's the exhibit that argues that Japan's "entry into" other Asian countries was simply an effort to help them throw off the yoke of Western colonization. The museum claims that the Japanese leaders who were tried as war criminals were heroic. A tiny section on Nanking makes no mention of atrocities.

All this revisionism is interspersed with militaristic displays. And crucially, these are not a handful of dusty exhibits in an out-of-the-way place; the Yasukuni complex occupies 25 acres of prime Tokyo real estate.

Fueled by such an aggrieved interpretation of Japan's wartime past, Abe and his party are leading efforts to amend Article 9 of the nation's postwar constitution, which mandates that Japan not maintain a standing army. This comes at a time of escalating tension with China, much of it focused on the Senkaku islands. And Abe's government is considering revising what is known as the Kono Statement, a 1993 apology Japan made for the comfort women, an issue of great meaning to China and other nations that had women forced into sexual slavery.

It seems unlikely that the region will erupt into armed conflict over three tiny islands or repeal of the apology. And it can be argued that the move to amend the constitution shouldn't be a cause for great alarm because Japan already has a well-armed self-defense force.

What is alarming is that the leaders of Japan—and a large and vocal minority of its citizens—have an understanding of their country's wartime history that is grounded primarily in fiction. The Rape of Nanking is not in dispute. There is abundant eyewitness testimony from foreign observers, victims and Chinese and Japanese soldiers; contemporaneous news accounts; horrifying forensic and photographic evidence; and even film footage, surreptitiously shot by an American missionary.

Japanese denial in the face of all this ensures that a historical event will continue to fan the flames of anger and distrust. The sooner the facts are recognized and Japanese leaders renounce paying tribute to mass killers and rapists, the sooner true healing can begin.

Bill Guttentag is a lecturer at the Stanford Graduate School of Business. He and Dan Sturman directed the documentary film "Nanking," which won a Peabody Award in 2009. They wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Buried history in Hanoi

Out beyond the swank poolside bar at Hanoi's Metro-pole hotel, which I visited last month, a gated entrance opens onto a dark set of stairs. At the bottom is a dank and musty bomb shelter, and, for those who can read Vietnamese, a sign in golden lettering explaining that Joan Baez and Jane Fonda once took refuge there.

I did too, though not at the same time they did.

I was a 25-year-old antiwar activist when I traveled to Hanoi in December 1965. I was working as a community organizer in Newark, N.J., and it angered me that President Johnson was drafting thousands of young Americans for a ground war he had promised not to launch when he campaigned in 1964. I felt certain the war in Vietnam would be the end of the war on poverty.

The U.S. government didn't allow Americans to visit Hanoi at that point, but a group of us thought it was important to meet the "faceless Vietcong" and to investigate Johnson's claim that his bombing targets were only "steel and concrete," not civilians. We visited bombed villages and pagodas that put a lie to the president's words, and we helped open the way for war correspondents like Harrison Salisbury of the New York Times, who later confirmed evidence of widespread civilian casualties in North Vietnam.

I had never been outside the United States before that trip, and what I found was a place far different from the propaganda I'd heard. Yes, the North Vietnamese were led by a communist party, but the party had arisen in the larger context of a colonial independence movement. Far from being faceless fanatics, the Vietnamese I met struck me as patriotic descendants of centuries of war against the French, British, Chinese and now, my countrymen.

Operation Rolling Thunder, the American bombing campaign over the North, had not reached Hanoi at the time of our visit, but air-raid sirens were continuous at night, and whenever the alarms sounded, the gracious hotel staff roused us from sleep and led us downstairs to the shelter. The place was claustrophobic, but candles, flashlights, dark humor, BBC radio news and the calm of our hosts made the anxiety pass.

After the war ended in 1975, the shelter was buried for years while the hotel was rebuilt. It was unearthed during construction of

the poolside bar in 2011. But I worry that much of the war's history remains buried.

Jan. 27 will be the 40th anniversary of the Paris peace agreement, which formally ended direct U.S. military involvement in Vietnam, and there is likely to be considerable news media coverage of the occasion. By contrast, there was virtually no coverage last month of another 40th anniversary in the war's history, the "Christmas bombing" of Hanoi in December 1972. When remembered at all, those punishing B-52 attacks are thought to have bombed Hanoi to the peace table.

But that's simply not true.

In November 1972, Richard Nixon had won a sweeping re-election victory over peace candidate George McGovern. Nixon was helped to victory by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's optimistic October announcement that "peace is at hand" in Vietnam.

A month after the election, however, the president wasn't thinking about peace. Instead, he was preparing an attack that he insisted be "massive and brutal in character." In his book "The 11 Days of Christmas," Marshall Michel III, a military historian who flew 321 combat missions over Vietnam, writes that the administration assumed "the North Vietnamese would crack quickly." The B-52 planes that would carry out the attack were seen as practically invincible: Not one, according to Michel, had been shot down during 112,000 missions in Vietnam over seven years.

That Christmas, as the lumbering giants took off from bases in Guam and Thailand, their confident crews listened to Henry Mancini's "Baby Elephant Walk" on headphones. But it was quickly clear that the campaign wouldn't be easy.

On the first two nights of the attack, Vietnamese forces shot down eight B-52s, sending "shock waves of alarm" through the administration, according to Michel's history. Over 11 days, 15 B-52s were downed over Hanoi, and five others were badly damaged. Twenty-eight Americans were killed and 34 were captured on the ground. The crushed remains of the B-52s were piled in Hanoi's center for the people and journalists to see.

The U.S. nevertheless dropped 15,000 tons of bombs on Hanoi during the campaign. On Kham Thien Street, in a civilian neighborhood, 250 people were killed. The Bach Mai hospital was flattened,

By **TOM HAYDEN**

Los Angeles Times

Tom Hayden is a former California state senator. His earlier writings on Vietnam have been collected in "Writings for a Democratic Society: The Tom Hayden Reader." He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



leaving 25 medical staff dead and many patients buried alive. No one knows the count exactly, but common estimates put the number of Vietnamese killed at 1,600 in Hanoi and 300 in Haiphong.

Joan Baez was staying in the hotel at the time, and spent many hours in its bomb shelter. With her were Vietnam veteran Barry Romo, Yale theologian Michael Allen and retired U.S. Gen. Telford Taylor, who had been an American prosecutor during the Nuremberg trials of Nazi war criminals. Taylor sent out a report from Hanoi that stirred peace activists, including Vietnam vets and clerics. Thousands of Americans immediately rallied to send medical aid to help rebuild Bach Mai hospital.

The B-52 bombings ended on Dec. 29 without in any way achieving their goal of bringing North Vietnam to its knees. The Paris peace agreement was signed one month later, looking almost exactly like an agreement both sides had been prepared to agree to months earlier. The treaty ended U.S. military involvement, but the battle between north and south continued for two more bloody years before the hapless Saigon regime fell to a North Vietnamese military offensive. By that time, Nixon was no longer in office, having been forced to resign in the wake of the Watergate scandal.

Perhaps the bomb shelter will serve to remind people of the great wrong we imposed on a country halfway around the world. Even today, Vietnamese children are born with birth defects caused by the defoliant Agent Orange, which was sprayed widely by U.S. troops. Even today, farmers lose limbs from stepping on land mines and cluster bombs left by Americans on former battlegrounds.

The work of reconciliation is only beginning.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

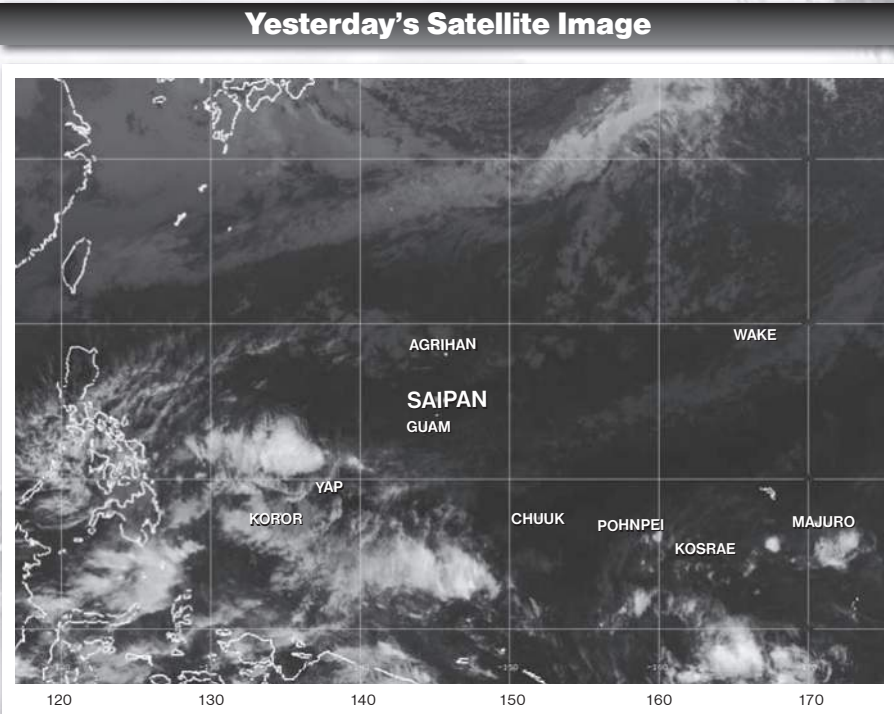
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼73°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲83 ▼75
Palau	Showers	▲85 ▼77
Yap	Showers	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲85 ▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85 ▼80
Kosrae	Showers	▲85 ▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲86 ▼80

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲75 ▼66
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲29 ▼11
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲66 ▼59
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲80 ▼68
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲32 ▼24
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲72 ▼54
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼74
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲77 ▼70
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲76 ▼59
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲26 ▼16
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲43 ▼36
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲25 ▼18
Pusan	Sunny	▲37 ▼24
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲51 ▼37
Salem	Cloudy	▲43 ▼42
San Francisco	Sunny	▲61 ▼50
Seoul	Sunny	▲20 ▼13
Tokyo	Sunny	▲51 ▼35
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲29 ▼24

Tides				
Saipan Harbor				
12:03 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet	
7:12 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet	
12:14 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet	
5:12 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 21N180 to 18N171E then continues as a shear line south of Wake Island and south of Guam to end northwest of Koror near 11N130E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 300 miles northwest of this boundary from 21N180 to 11N138E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring between 11N and 13N from 130E to 138E. A near-equatorial trough runs eastward from south of Mindanao through 4N130E to 5N136E then southeastward to end near EQ146E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring over Palau and south of Yap between 2N and 7N from 131E to 148E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers south of Majuro between 4N and 7N from 167E to 175E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:47 AM	6:11 PM	Today	3:45 PM	4:08 AM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:12 PM	Friday	4:35 PM	4:56 AM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:12 PM	Saturday	5:26 PM	5:41 AM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM	Sunday	6:17 PM	6:25 AM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM	Monday	7:08 PM	7:08 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ **CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JAN. 7, 2013					
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN		
UA5070	4:35am 5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA 5069	2:45am 3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am 5:30am	1, 3, 5	UA5071	7:05am 7:55am	Daily
UA5068	8:25am 9:15am	Daily	UA5073	9:50am 10:40am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5074	11:10am 12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5075	1:45pm 2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm 4:00pm	Daily	UA5077	5:35pm 6:25pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm 7:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:20pm 9:10pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm 10:35pm	Daily			
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN		
DL287	6:00am 8:40am	Daily	DL298	10:25am 3:00pm	Daily
DL285	6:35am 9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7	DL286	7:40pm 12:15am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL297	4:25pm 7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:40pm 1:15am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN		
OZ119	4:00am 6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50pm 2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN		
OZ608	3:10am 6:20am	4, 6, 7	OZ607	9:00pm 1:50am+1	3, 5, 6
OZ608	3:30am 6:40am	3	OZ607	9:35pm 2:25am+1	2
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN		
OZ606	2:10am 6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am 2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:40am 6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm 2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ119	4:00am 11:20am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	7:40pm 1:00am+1	7
OZ604	3:20pm 7:10pm	Daily	OZ605	8:10pm 1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN		
3U8648	6:10am 8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm 5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN		
MU7108	3:50am 7:00am	1, 5	MU7107	7:40pm 2:55am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN		
3U8646	4:20am 7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm 3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)			VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN		
XF1734	6:30am 12:30pm	5	XF1733	8:00pm 12:05am+1	4
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN		
OZ606/701	2:10am 11:15am	1	OZ704/603	12:10am 2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am 11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	DL172/288	8:05am 1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
UA5070/191	4:35am 10:00am	6 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:55am 6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:40am 10:00am	3	UA190/5079	10:55am 9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am 10:25pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:30pm 1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm 9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:30pm 1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm 9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5071	10:10pm 8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm 11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA184/5071	10:55pm 7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm 7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	11:59pm 7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN		
OZ606/721	2:10am 11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am 2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am 11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:15pm 1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm 10:30pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:15pm 1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm 11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5071	11:25pm 10:40am+1	1 via GUM
			UA180/5077	11:25pm 6:25pm+1	5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily	
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				

Bordallo remains ranking member of Readiness Subcommittee

Whispering Palms thanks supporters of wine tasting fundraiser

Whispering Palms School held its 3rd Annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser last Friday at the poolside of the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The fundraiser featured Barton & Guestier French wines distributed by Pacific Trading Co. along with an assortment of hors d'oeuvres prepared by Hyatt chefs. A variety of items were also generously donated by local businesses for a silent auction.

A sincere thank you goes out to Pacific Trading Co., Hyatt Regency Saipan, Aces Tennis Academy, BridgeCapital, LLC, Delta Airlines, Delta Management's DataDot Micronesia, DFS, Docomo Pacific, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Gold's Gym, Greg Elliott Artwork, IT & E, Kanoa Resort, Marianas Resort & Spa, Monika's Furniture, Pacific Islands Club, Shell IP&E, and Tropical Blendz.

Whispering Palms School appreciates the community's support. This event was made possible through the various sponsors, those that bought tickets, the parent volunteers, and the staff and management



A staff from Hyatt Regency Saipan opens a bottle of Barton & Guestier French wine distributed by Pacific Trading Co. during Whispering Palms School's 3rd Annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser held last Friday.

at the Hyatt Regency and Pacific Trading Co.

Whispering Palms School is a non-profit school located on upper Navy Hill and is educating children from Grades 1 to 8. The school aims to provide a safe, nurturing, challeng-

ing, and successful learning environment on Saipan. It also strives to instill a love for learning and provide students with the tools they need to become successful and be compassionate members of the community. (PR)

Guam delegate also receives Natural Resources Subcommittee assignments

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo yesterday officially received her House Armed Services and Natural Resources subcommittee assignments for the 113th Congress. She will continue to serve as Ranking Member of the Readiness Subcommittee, which has broad oversight on issues important to the military realignments in the Pacific.

Additionally, the congresswoman was appointed to the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel; the House Natural

Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs; and the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation. The latter subcommittee assignment on public lands is a change from the 112th Congress; she no longer serves on the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.

"I am pleased that I will continue to serve as Ranking Member of the Readiness Subcommittee, which oversees military construction, family housing, base closures and realignments and related energy and environmental issues,"



Bordallo

said Congresswoman Bordallo. "During the last Congress, we made significant progress on getting the build-up back on track. I thank former Readiness Chairman J. Randy Forbes for his support, and I look forward to building a positive working relationship with the new subcommittee Chairman, Congressman Robert Wittman of Virginia.

These subcommittee assignments on Armed Services and Resources reflect the priorities of our community, especially with respect to the build-up, the needs of our servicemembers and veterans, and our unique insular issues. I am also excited to continue my work in protecting our fisheries and vital natural resources that provide our island with many economic opportunities." (PR)

McCreadie sends letter to US Navy on closure of Admiral Nimitz Golf Course

HAGATÑA, Guam—Guam Sen. Brant McCreadie yesterday sent a letter to Rear Admiral Tilghman Payne regarding the upcoming closure of Admiral Nimitz Golf Course.

Sen. McCreadie attended a meeting hosted by Guam Sen. Tina Rose Muña-Barnes to hear the golf community's concern and opposition to the closure of the golf course. According to reports, the last golfing day will

be on Feb. 10, 2013.

"I share in the golfing community's concern regarding the closure of Admiral Nimitz Golf Course," said Sen. McCreadie. "The negative impact the course's closure will have on the sport in Guam will be severe."

Sen. McCreadie's letter informs Admiral Payne of his commitment to find a way to keep the course open. Sen. McCreadie further adds, "facili-

ties like Admiral Nimitz Golf Course are important to our people's health and wellness. All measures must be taken before it is closed, and I plan to work with Senator Barnes, the Navy and the golfing community to see what options are available."

For more information, please contact Matthew Baza at 472-3462/3 or via email at baza.matthew@gmail.com. (PR)

Muña-Barnes discusses regional tourism challenges with Mori

HAGATÑA, Guam—Following on the heels of her meetings this past week with Palau leaders including President Thomas "Tommy" Remengesau, Jr., Guam's Sen. Tina Muña-Barnes met yesterday with Federated States of Micronesia President Emanuel "Manny" Mori as part of her renewed efforts in the 32nd Guam Legislature to increase regional collaboration on tourism-related issues.

The subject of their meeting was the current state of regional tourism, including challenges shared by Guam's neighboring islands as well as the opportunities for collaboration and growth in our respective industries. Sen. Muña-Barnes and President Mori discussed the need for leaders across Micronesia to work together to come up with a region-wide approach to addressing the rise in air travel in the region.

"As chairperson on tourism, I have engaged with stakeholders across both the private and pub-



Guam Sen. Tina Muña-Barnes is flanked by Federated States of Micronesia President Emanuel "Manny" Mori, left, and FSM Consul General in Guam Robert A. Ruecho during their meeting yesterday.

lic sectors and know that the rising cost of airfare to and among our islands is a regional problem that requires a regional solution," says the senator. "Airfare costs in this region have risen

beyond the reach of too many of our people, and something bold needs to be done about that."

For more information, call the Office of Sen. Muña-Barnes at 472-3455/6. (PR)

Orientation for UOG NCLEX-RN review course Jan. 25

Individuals who are interested in registering for the University of Guam's Comprehensive NCLEX-RN Review Course should plan on attending the orientation scheduled for Jan. 25 at 4pm in the Nursing and Health Sciences Building, Room 229, UOG campus.

The course is designed for individuals who have completed a bachelor's level nursing program but who have not taken the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCLEX) examination

for certification as a registered nurse. Individuals who have completed nursing programs at foreign universities are welcome to attend the orientation.

The 2012 NCLEX data show that 36 percent of internationally educated candidates pass the exam the first time compared to 92 percent of U.S.-educated candidates. This comprehensive course will provide candidates with a review of all areas of the examination.

The course will begin March

2 and run through August 2013 and will be taught by UOG Nursing faculty who have either master's or PhDs.

Registration fees are \$1,060 for 265 hours of instruction. Review books will be an additional cost. Deadline to register is Feb. 15, 2013.

For more information, contact Cathleen Moore-Linn at 735-2600/1 cmoore@uogam.uog.edu or Karen Cruz at 735-2660 or kcruz@uogam.uog.edu. (UOG)



[1] EXECUTIVE CHEF (CHINESE CUISINE)

Our Resort is looking for a professional candidate with a solid Executive Chef and Chinese Cuisine experience who will help develop and implement the strategic direction of the Resort's Chinese food offering through product and menu development and by supporting the kitchen teams and monitoring and reviewing product consistency and quality at all times.

As the Chinese Cuisine Executive Chef, the responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Collaborating with higher management and other Chefs to develop and plan menu requirements, serving arrangements and other related details
- Enforcing and following compliance procedures for sanitation & cleanliness and monitoring workstations & staff for adherence to those procedures.
- Providing training to strengthen his/her team's current performance and monitoring cooks and chefs for proper skills and service
- Maintaining food cost at reasonable levels without affecting quality and standards

Qualifications:

- Minimum Education: Vocational School or Associate's Degree graduate or equivalent years of relevant experience
- Minimum Experience: Five years of experience cooking and preparing Chinese food in a high-volume food service facility or in a high volume hospitality environment and at least three years in an Executive Chef or similar role.
- Excellent cooking skills and extensive knowledge of Chinese Cuisine and food handling procedures with regard to public health standards
- Demonstrated aptitude for the financial aspects of food operation, including the successful identification of expense reduction through cost control
- Ability to speak English clearly, distinctly and cordially with guests
- Ability to work flexible hours including nights, weekends, and holidays
- Excellent communication, organizational, and multitasking skills are a must
- Team player

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application Forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our Resort. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than January 30, 2013. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Business

Can Apple maintain its shine?

NEW YORK (AP)—For many investors, Apple's best days are behind it. Competitors are catching up, they believe, and the latest iPhone is stumbling.

The company's doubters have backed their conviction with billions of dollars. Last week, the stock fell below \$500 for the first time in 11 months. Since Apple's stock peaked at \$705.07 on Sept. 21—the day of the iPhone 5's release—it has fallen nearly 30 percent, cutting Apple's market capitalization by nearly \$200 billion.

On Wednesday, Apple—still the world's most valuable public company—gets a chance to rebut the skeptics as it reports financial results for the holiday quarter. But the report could also end up confirming beliefs that the company is losing its edge as an arbiter of innovation and a pacesetter in sales growth.

Apple's perception problem centers on the iPhone. Many investors believe the company has painted itself into a corner with the high-priced gadget. The iPhone is more expensive than other smartphones that do many of the same things. The company created the modern smartphone, but because of its strategy to sell the iPhone at a large premium, it will be unable to capitalize fully as smartphones continue conquering the world. The iPhone seems destined to remain the phone of the elite who can afford it.

In many ways, the iPhone's global battle with phones running Google's Android operating system is a replay of the Mac-PC



In this Friday, July 20, 2012 file photo, workers clean the rooftop of a building near an Apple Store in Shanghai, China.

AP

battles of the 80s and 90s, when Apple saw its innovative-yet-expensive Mac outflanked by cheaper PCs running Microsoft's DOS and Windows software.

Analyst Michael Morgan at ABI Research believes Apple's share of the global smartphone market will grow from 20.5 percent in 2012 to 22 percent this year and then remain flat. Meanwhile, South Korea's Samsung Electronics—the world's No. 1 maker of smartphones—is already at 30 percent of the market, and

is set to leverage its chip- and display-making capabilities into further dominance, he said.

“Barring an unlikely collapse in Samsung's business, even Apple will be chasing Samsung's technology, software, and device leadership in 2013—through the foreseeable future,” Morgan said.

Investors also see short-term difficulties for Apple. Last week, the Japanese newspaper Nikkei and The Wall Street Journal said the company has slashed its orders for iPhone 5 parts because

the device isn't selling as well as hoped. Both publications cited unidentified people familiar with the situation.

Sterne Agee analyst Shaw Wu believes the press reports are misleading. iPhone 5 demand, he says, remains robust. He attributes the reports of lower orders to shifts to other suppliers and an improvement in production, which means fewer components are wasted while building the complicated phone.

Apple usually reports the num-

ber of iPhones it sells each quarter, so Wednesday's financial update should give investors some indication of where the company is heading. Analysts on average expect the company to show sales of 48 million iPhones, which compares with the 37 million it sold in the same period a year prior.

The wrinkle is that Apple doesn't break out how many iPhones it sells of each type—it has kept selling the cheaper, two-year-old iPhone 4 and last year's 4S alongside the flagship 5.

Wal-Mart warns suppliers on stricter measures

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (AP)—Wal-Mart Stores Inc. has alerted its global suppliers that it will immediately drop them if they subcontract their work to factories that haven't been authorized by the discounter.

Wal-Mart's stricter contracting rule, along with other changes to its policy, comes amid increasing calls for better safety oversight after a deadly fire at a Bangladesh factory that supplied clothing to Wal-Mart and other retailers. The fire in late November killed 112 workers at a factory owned by Tazreen Fashions Ltd. Wal-Mart has said the factory wasn't authorized to make its clothes.

In a letter sent Tuesday to suppliers of its Wal-Mart stores as well as Sam's Clubs in the U.S., Canada and the United Kingdom, the company says it will adopt a “zero tolerance” policy on subcontracting without the company's knowledge, effective March. 1. Previously, suppliers had three chances to rectify mistakes.

Wal-Mart also said it plans to publish on its corporate website

a list of factories that haven't been authorized to manufacture goods for Wal-Mart.

Also, starting June 1, suppliers must have an employee stationed in countries where they subcontract to ensure compliance, rather than relying on third-party agents.

“We want the right accountability and ownership to be in the hands of the suppliers,” said Rajan Kamalanathan, Wal-Mart's vice president of ethical sourcing, said in an interview with The Associated Press. “We are placing our orders in good faith.”

Wal-Mart will hold a meeting for clothing suppliers from the U.S. and Canada on Thursday to explain the new policy changes.

Kamalanathan said Wal-Mart is looking to create a fund that factories can use to improve safety, but that is still in discussion. But he also said local governments and other suppliers and retailers have to do their part in boosting factory safety.

Critics quickly dismissed Wal-Mart's moves as inadequate and said that the retailer needs to do more.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

White House: Obama wouldn't block GOP debt bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration says it won't oppose a House Republican proposal to increase the nation's \$16.4 trillion borrowing authority for only three months, even though President Barack last week decried such short-term measures as harmful to the economy. The White House Office of Management and Budget issued a statement Tuesday saying the GOP measure “introduces unnecessary complications, needlessly perpetuating uncertainty in the nation's fiscal system.” But it says the administration is encouraged because Republicans backed off their insistence of one dollar of spending cuts for every dollar of increase in the debt ceiling.

Lowe's to hire 45,000 seasonal workers for spring

MOORESVILLE, N.C. (AP)—Home-improvement retailer Lowe's Cos. said Tuesday that it plans to hire 45,000 seasonal workers ahead of its busy spring season, a sign that the nascent housing recovery is creating jobs. Lowe's, based in Mooresville, N.C., also plans to add 9,000 part-time employees on a permanent basis. On average, seasonal employees will work 20 to 25 hours per week and the length of seasonal employment will vary. Most jobs will start in February. Some could last until September.

Expiring credits, deductions extended by Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—Taxpayers preparing to file their 2012 returns can breathe a collective sigh of relief.

The alternative minimum tax or AMT has been patched—permanently—and several tax credits and deductions that technically expired at the end of 2011 were extended as part of the fiscal cliff legislation that Congress passed and President Barack Obama signed into law in January.

“It certainly puts back into place many of the tax benefits that had expired for many people,” said Mark Steber, chief tax officer with Jackson Hewitt Tax Services. “The extenders will be back on people's tax returns, making their 2012 refunds larger than they would have been.”

But the delay in congressional action could mean confusion for some taxpayers over what credits and deductions still exist.

That could make going it alone on tax day costly. Experts say people should seek some guidance, whether it's from a professional tax preparer, up-to-date software programs or tax

guides, before filing returns.

More than 90 percent of taxpayers go to a tax preparer or use tax software to file their returns, estimated Jim Buttonow, a 20-year IRS veteran who is now vice president of products for New River Innovation, a tax technology company.

The Internal Revenue Service will begin accepting returns Jan. 30, an eight-day delay necessitated by the late congressional action.

“We have worked hard to open tax season as soon as possible,” IRS Acting Commissioner Steven T. Miller said in a statement. “This date ensures we have the time we need to update and test our processing systems.”

The agency said most taxpayers—more than 120 million households—would be able to begin filing Jan. 30. But filing for those claiming energy credits, depreciation of property or general business credits will be delayed until late February or March.

Last year, the agency received 137 million returns.

Electronic filing increased

by 6.2 percent to 113 million in 2012, an upward trend that tax experts expect to continue. Although most electronically filed returns are by tax professionals, increasing percentages of individuals are doing their own returns electronically.

Nearly 104 million people received refunds last year totaling about \$283 billion. The average refund was \$2,707, slightly less than the year before, according to the IRS.

As people sit down to do their taxes this year, they'll find that the standard deduction has been adjusted higher for inflation, to \$11,900 for married couples filing jointly, \$8,700 for heads of households and \$5,950 for single taxpayers.

About two-thirds of taxpayers claim the standard deduction, according to Barbara Weltman, an author of J.K. Lasser's Tax Guide 2013.

Each personal exemption is worth \$3,800 this year, up from \$3,700 in 2011. Look expansively at dependents beyond your children under 19, or 24 if in college.

Nation

Poll: Many say let illegal immigrants stay in US

WASHINGTON (AP)—More than 6 in 10 Americans now favor allowing illegal immigrants to eventually become U.S. citizens, a major increase in support driven by a turnaround in Republicans' opinions after the 2012 elections.

The finding, in a new Associated Press-GfK poll, comes as the Republican Party seeks to increase its meager support among Latino voters, who

turned out in large numbers to help re-elect President Barack Obama in November. Emboldened by the overwhelming Hispanic backing and by shifting attitudes on immigration, Obama has made overhauling laws about who can legally live in the U.S. a centerpiece of his second-term agenda. In the coming weeks, he's expected to aggressively push for ways to create an eventual pathway

to citizenship for the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants already in this country.

The poll results suggest that the public overall, not just Hispanics, will back his efforts. Sixty-two percent of Americans now favor providing a way for illegal immigrants in the U.S. to become citizens, an increase from just 50 percent in the summer of 2010, the last time the AP polled on the question.

In an even earlier poll, in 2009, some 47 percent supported a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants.

Further boosting the president on the issue, Democrats have opened a 41 percent to 34

percent advantage as the party more trusted to handle immigration, the first time they've held a significant edge on the matter in AP-GfK polling. In October 2010, Republicans held a slight edge over Democrats, 46 percent to 41 percent, on the question of who was more trusted on immigration.

Much of the increase in support for a path to eventual citizenship has come among Republicans. A majority in the GOP—53 percent—now favor the change. That's up a striking 22 percentage points from 2010. Seventy-two percent of Democrats and 55 percent of independents like the idea,

similar to 2010.

The findings suggest that those GOP lawmakers weighing support for eventual legal status for illegal immigrants could be rewarded politically not just by Democrats and independents but also by some in their own party as well. This comes amid soul-searching in the party about how the GOP can broaden its support with Latinos, who backed Obama over Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney, 71 percent to 27 percent, in November. Romney received less support from Latinos than Republican President George W. Bush did. But his slice was on par with candidates Bob

Dole in 1996 and George H.W. Bush in 1992.

Some Republicans have concluded that backing comprehensive immigration reform with a pathway to citizenship is becoming a political necessity. Many lawmakers remain strongly opposed, and it's far from clear whether Congress will ultimately sign off on such an approach. But in the Senate, a bipartisan group of lawmakers is working to draft immigration legislation, and Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., a possible 2016 presidential candidate, has offered proposals that would ultimately allow illegal immigrants to attain legal status.

GOP moves to delay debt-ceiling showdown 3 months

WASHINGTON (AP)—Seeking to regain their budget footing versus President Barack Obama, Republicans controlling the House are moving quickly to try to defuse a potential debt crisis with legislation to prevent a first-ever U.S. default for at least three months.

The Republicans are giving up for now on trying to extract spending cuts from Democrats in return for an increase in the government's borrowing cap. But the respite promises to be only temporary, with the stage still set for major battles between the GOP and Obama over taxes, spending and deficits.

The first step comes Wednesday with a House vote on GOP-sponsored legislation that would give the government enough borrowing leeway to meet three months' worth of obligations, delaying a showdown next month that Republicans fear they would lose.

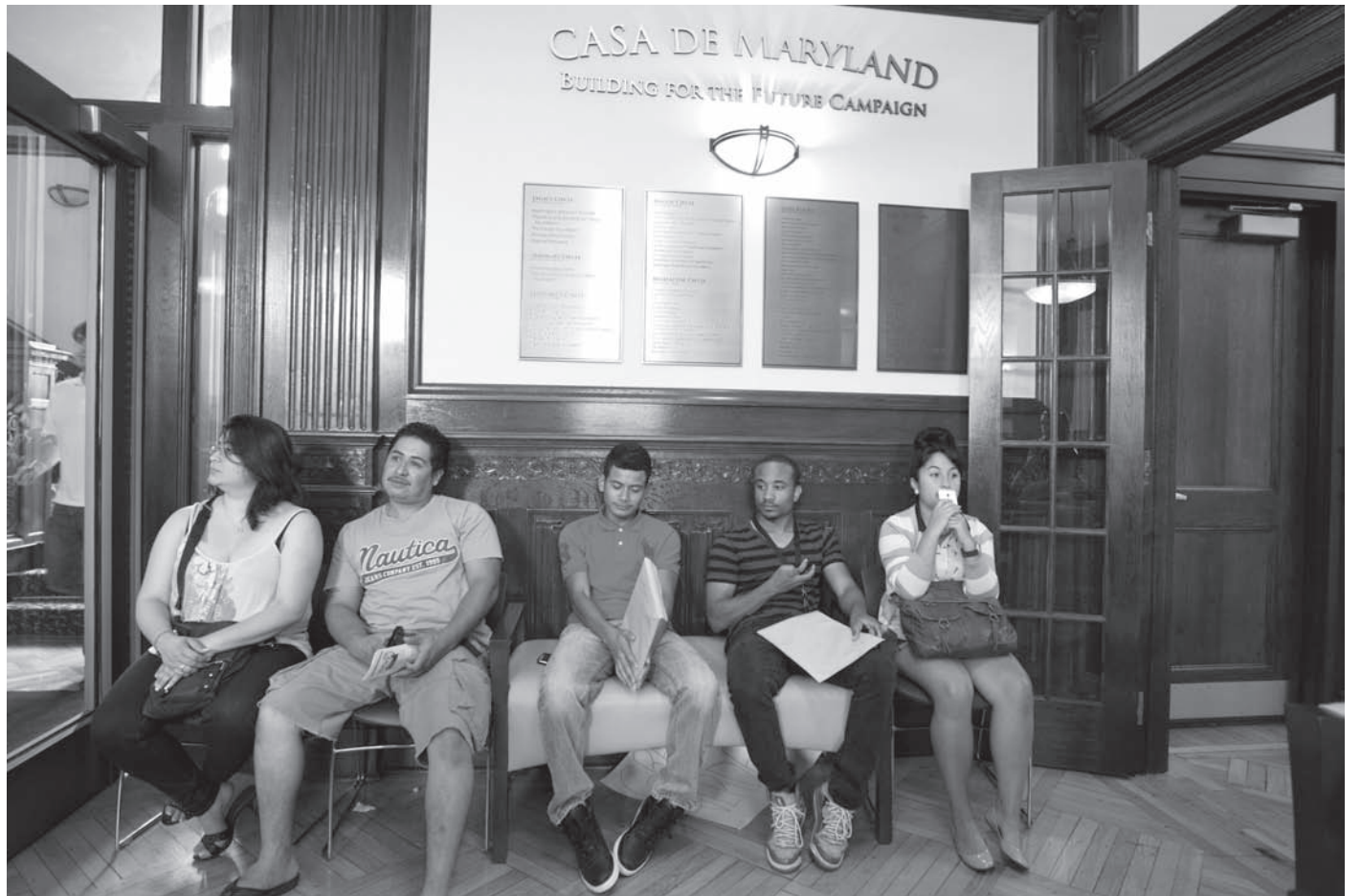
Republicans leaving a two-hour meeting Tuesday afternoon appeared confident that the measure would pass.

While it's commonly assumed that the Treasury Department wouldn't allow a disastrous default on U.S. Treasury notes, the prospect of failing to meet other U.S. obligations such as payments to contractors, unemployment benefits and Social Security checks would also be reputation shattering. House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, and other GOP leaders have made it plain they don't have the stomach for it.

The legislation is disliked by many Democrats, but the White House weighed in Tuesday with a statement that the administration would not oppose the measure, even though Obama just last week dismissed incremental increases in the debt ceiling as harmful to the economy.

"I am not going to have a monthly, or every three months conversation about whether or not we pay our bills," Obama said at a news conference Jan. 14.

But what was important to the White House about the GOP proposal was that it separated the debt ceiling from other upcoming fiscal target dates and that it signaled that, at least for now, Republicans were not going to demand a dollar of spending cuts for every dollar of federal borrowing as Boehner long has demanded.



This Aug. 15, 2012 file photo shows applicants waiting in Casa de Maryland in Langley Park, Md., before they can apply for the Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals, as the U.S. started accepting applications to allow them to avoid deportation and get a work permit—but not a path to citizenship.

US Afghan commander cleared in Petraeus email case

WASHINGTON (AP)—A Pentagon investigation has cleared Gen. John Allen, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, of professional misconduct in exchanging emails with a civilian woman linked to the sex scandal that led retired Gen. David Petraeus to resign as CIA director.

Pentagon press secretary George Little said Tuesday that Defense Secretary Leon Panetta was informed of the conclusion by the Pentagon's inspector general.

"The secretary was pleased to learn that allegations of professional misconduct were not substantiated by the investigation," Little said, adding that Panetta has "complete confidence in the continued leadership" of Allen.

The matter had been referred to the Pentagon in November

by the FBI during the course of its investigation of emails between Petraeus and his biographer-turned-paramour, Paula Broadwell. The FBI turned up thousands of emails between Allen and Jill Kelley, who was said to have received threatening emails from Broadwell.

At the time, officials said 20,000 to 30,000 pages of emails and other documents from Allen's communications with Kelley between 2010 and 2012 were in question. None of the emails had been made public.

Shortly after being contacted by the FBI, Panetta referred the matter to the Pentagon's inspector general, while expressing confidence in Allen and deciding that he would remain in Kabul as commander of all allied forces in Afghanistan.

At the same time, Allen's nomination to be the next U.S. commander of NATO forces in Europe was put on hold. The officials said Tuesday the White House had not decided whether to go forward with the nomination.

Maj. David Nevers, a spokesman for Allen, said he had no immediate comment on reports of his being exonerated.

Allen's successor in Kabul, Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, has been confirmed by the Senate and is scheduled to take over on Feb. 10.

Allen had maintained he did nothing wrong in the Kelley communications, but he has not spoken publicly about the specifics of his email exchanges with her. She served as a sort of social ambassador for U.S. Central Command in Tampa, Fla.

Midwest bundles up as bitter cold grips region

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—Homeless people scrambled to find shelter, schools closed down and plumbers wrestled with frozen pipes Tuesday as the Upper Midwest endured a third straight day of bitter cold temperatures.

Waves of frigid Arctic air began sweeping south from Canada on Saturday night, locking the Midwest in a deep freeze that has left a section of the country well-acquainted with winter's pains reeling. Authorities suspect exposure has played a role in at least four deaths so far.

"I am wearing a Snuggie under a top and another jacket over that," said Faye Whitbeck, president of the chamber of commerce in International Falls, Minn., a town near the Canadian border where the temperature was minus 30 on Tuesday morning. The so-

called "Nation's Icebox" reached a balmy 3 below for a high. "I pulled out a coat that went right to my ankles this morning and I wore two scarves."

The coldest location in the lower 48 states Monday was Embarrass, Minn., at 36 below. On Sunday it was Babbitt, Minn., at 29 below, according to the National Weather Service. The bitter conditions were expected to persist into the week-end in the Midwest through the eastern half of the U.S., said Shawn DeVinny, a National Weather Service meteorologist in suburban Minneapolis.

Ariana Laffey, a 30-year-old homeless woman, kept warm with a blanket, three pairs of pants and six shirts as she sat on a milk crate begging near Chicago's Willis Tower on Tuesday morning. She said she and her

husband spent the night under a bridge, bundled up under a half-dozen blankets.

"We're just trying to make enough to get a warm room to sleep in tonight," Laffey said.

But in Sioux Falls, S.D., where winter temperatures are normally well below freezing, some homeless shelters had open beds. Shelter managers suspect people who needed a place to stay were already using the services before the temperatures reached more extreme lows. The first cold snap of the season was in early December. Overnight temperatures dropped to 9 below with the wind chill. In Vermillion, S.D., a water pipe break forced the evacuation of a dormitory at the University of South Dakota, with nearly 500 students offered hotel rooms.

Asia

After UN acts, NKorea vows 'nuclear deterrence'

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea swiftly lashed out against the U.N. Security Council's condemnation of its December launch of a long-range rocket, saying Wednesday that it will strengthen its military defenses—including its nuclear weaponry—in response.

The defiant statement from North Korea's Foreign Ministry was issued hours after the Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution condemning Pyongyang's Dec. 12 rocket

launch as a violation of a ban against nuclear and missile activity. The resolution, which required approval from Pyongyang's ally China, also added to sanctions against the North.

The Foreign Ministry called the launch a peaceful bid to send a satellite into space rather than a test of long-range missile technology. It said North Korea "should counter the U.S. hostile policy with strength, not with words."

The statement ominously warned that North Korea will

"bolster the military capabilities for self-defense including the nuclear deterrence."

The wording "considerably and strongly hints at the possibility of a nuclear test," analyst Hong Hyun-ik at the private Sejong Institute think tank near Seoul said Wednesday.

North Korea conducted nuclear weapons tests weeks after rocket launches in 2006 and 2009, and the region is bracing for the possibility that it may now test a third atomic device.



British Ambassador to the United Nations Mark Lyall Grant, left, and American Ambassador Susan Rice vote on a Security Council resolution condemning North Korea's rocket launch in December that sent a satellite into orbit, Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2013 at United Nations headquarters.

Philippines taking S. China Sea fight to tribunal

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines took a desperate legal step against China's claims to virtually the entire South China Sea, formally notifying the Asian superpower that Manila is seeking international arbitration to declare Beijing's moves in the potentially oil-rich waters "unlawful."

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said Tuesday his department summoned Chinese Ambassador Ma Keqing and handed her a note notifying the Chinese government that the Philippines is bringing the countries' conflicting claims to a tribunal operating under the 1982 U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea. It wants

the panel to declare Beijing's moves in the potentially oil-rich waters unlawful.

"The Philippines has exhausted almost all political and diplomatic avenues for a peaceful negotiated settlement of its maritime disputes with China," del Rosario told a news conference. "To this day, a solution is still elusive."

Six governments have overlapping claims across the vast South China Sea, with China claiming it has sovereignty over virtually all of it. Chinese paramilitary ships confronted Philippine vessels last year in a monthslong standoff over a shoal that both countries claim.

There are fears that territorial conflicts in the region,

including a dispute between Japan and China in the East China Sea, could spark Asia's next armed conflict.

Chinese Embassy spokesman Zhang Hua said Ma responded by reiterating that "China has indisputable sovereignty over the islands in the South China Sea and its adjacent waters." Zhang said the ambassador stressed that the disputes should be settled by the rival claimants through one-on-one negotiations.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in New York that the United Nations "if necessary, if requested, is ready to provide technical and professional assistance."

on its death row were convicted of drug charges.

Nepal to issue 'third gender' IDs

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—An official says Nepal's government will begin issuing citizenship certificates with the category "third gender" for people who do not wish to be identified as male or female. Activists hailed the decision, saying it was an achievement for gay and transgender rights. Home Ministry Bhola Siwakot says an order to issue the certificates was sent to all district administration offices. Nepal's Supreme Court ruled in 2007 that the government should issue "third gender" citizenship certificates but it took five years to implement the decision.

World

Fight for Mali town reflects Islamist tactics

DIABALY, Mali (AP)—

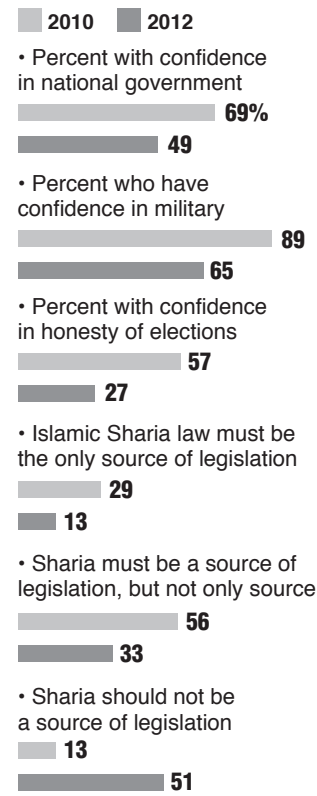
Abou Zeid, the shadowy and feared emir of one of al-Qaida's most successful cells, commandeered the packed-dirt home of a family here last week, embedding himself and his hundreds of men in this community of rice growers. He ate spaghetti and powdered milk, read the Quran and planned a war.

His bearded and turbaned men parked cars under the mango trees of the farmers, slept in their bedrooms and turned their courtyards into command centers and their warehouses into armories. And it took eight days before French air strikes finally drove them out of Diabaly, a pinprick of a town, in the first major showdown of the struggle to reclaim Mali's al-Qaida-occupied north.

The tactics used by the Islamist fighters in Diabaly offer a peephole into the kind of insurgency they plan to lead, and suggest the challenges the international community will face in the effort to dislodge them. They show how the Islamists are holding their ground despite a superior French force with sophisticated fighter jets, a fleet of com-

Malians doubt government

Malians' confidence in their government dropped in 2012 after a military coup and Islamist rebels took control of the northern part of the country, a new poll shows:



Source: Gallup poll of 1,000 adults, Oct. 22-Nov. 3, 2012 and Oct. 9-Oct. 22, 2010; margin of error: +/-3.6 percentage points
Graphic: Judy Treible © 2013 MCT

bat helicopters and hundreds of soldiers.

"The only thing that prevented the French planes from annihilating these people is that they were hiding in our homes. The French did everything to avoid civilian casualties," said Gaoussou Kone, a resident of the Berlin neighborhood of Diabaly, where Abou Zeid set up his command center. "That's why it took so long to liberate Diabaly."

Testimony from families, statements by French and local officials and the trash left behind by the fighters—including a handwritten inventory of weapons—provide a sketch of how the Islamists operated. The portrait that emerges is of a determined and nimble band of fighters, who have adapted to the terrain around them and instinctively understand that France, which unilaterally launched the intervention 12 days ago in their former West African colony, cannot afford to kill civilians.

The strategy of melting into the communities that house them and winning them over is one al-Qaida has already used successfully elsewhere, including in Afghanistan.

Netanyahu narrowly wins Israeli election

JERUSALEM (AP)—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his hard-line allies fared far worse than expected in a parliamentary election Tuesday, likely forcing him to reach across the aisle to court a popular political newcomer to cobble together a new coalition.

While Netanyahu appeared positioned to serve a third term as prime minister, the results marked a major setback for his policies and could force him to make new concessions to restart long-stalled peace talks with the Palestinians.

More than 99 percent of the votes had been counted by Wednesday morning and

results showed the hawkish and dovish blocs were split about evenly.

Netanyahu's most likely partner was Yesh Atid, or There is a Future, a party headed by political newcomer Yair Lapid that showed surprising strength. Lapid has said he would only join a government committed to sweeping economic changes and a resumption of peace talks with the Palestinians.

Addressing his supporters early Wednesday, Netanyahu vowed to form as broad a coalition as possible. He said the next government would be built on principles that include reforming the con-

tentious system of granting draft exemptions to ultra-Orthodox Jewish men and the pursuit of a "genuine peace" with the Palestinians. He did not elaborate, but the message seemed aimed at Lapid.

Shortly after the results were announced, Netanyahu called Lapid and offered to work together. "We have the opportunity to do great things together," Netanyahu was quoted as saying by Likud officials.

Netanyahu's Likud-Yisrael Beiteinu alliance was set to capture about 31 of the 120 seats, significantly fewer than the 42 it held in the outgoing parliament and below the forecasts of recent polls.

Syrians struggle with shortages as economy buckles

BEIRUT (AP)—Grappling with severe fuel shortages and winter temperatures that drop below freezing, Syrians are spending hours in line every day for gasoline or a few loaves of bread at soaring prices as President Bashar Assad's regime faces mounting difficulties in providing basic services to its people.

Syria's economy is buckling under the twin strains of violence and sanctions that have sapped the government's finances, devastated the nation's cities and left its indus-

try and infrastructure in ruins. A power outage on Monday plunged Damascus and large swathes of the country's south into darkness, providing a stark reminder of how serious the regime's challenges are to keep the economy moving—and its people fed and warm.

With the fighting settling into a bloody stalemate that looks likely to grind on for months, if not longer, the government's inability to provide basic services is likely to fuel frustration and anger with Assad, even from supporters who are deeply dis-

trustful of the rebels fighting to topple him.

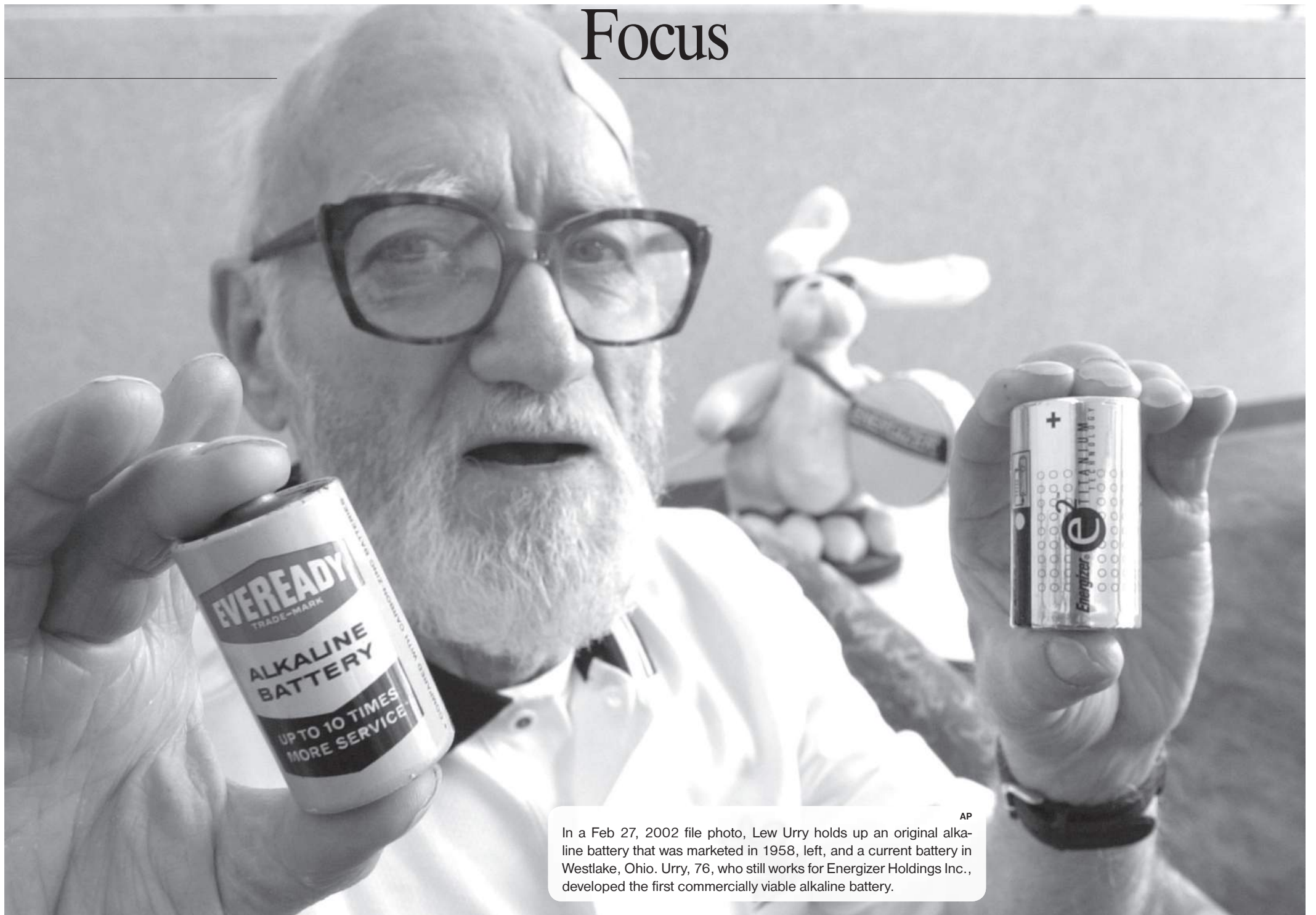
Monday's electricity blackout, which affected upscale areas in the heart of Damascus where rationing is normally less severe, was the latest in a series of infrastructural failures that the regime has blamed on the rebels. Late last year, the Internet and most telephone lines were cut for days as the regime and rebels traded blame. And over the year, the country's oil and gas pipelines, power stations and water pipes have all been attacked.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Indonesia sentences UK woman to death over drugs

BALI, Indonesia (AP)—An Indonesian court sentenced a British grandmother to death on Tuesday for smuggling cocaine worth \$2.5 million in her suitcase onto the resort island of Bali—even though prosecutors had sought only a 15-year sentence. Lindsay June Sandiford, 56, wept when judges handed down the sentence and declined to speak to reporters on her way back to prison, covering her face with a floral scarf. She had claimed in court that she was forced to take the drugs into the country by a gang that was threatening to hurt her children. Indonesia, like many Asian countries, is very strict on drug crimes, and most of the more than 40 foreigners

Focus



AP
In a Feb. 27, 2002 file photo, Lew Urry holds up an original alkaline battery that was marketed in 1958, left, and a current battery in Westlake, Ohio. Urry, 76, who still works for Energizer Holdings Inc., developed the first commercially viable alkaline battery.

What holds energy tech back? The infernal battery

WASHINGTON (AP)—As 21st century technology strains to become ever faster, cleaner and cheaper, an invention from more than 200 years ago keeps holding it back. It's why electric cars aren't clogging the roads and why Boeing's new ultra-efficient 787 Dreamliners aren't flying high.

And chances are you have this little invention next to you right now and probably have cursed it recently: the infernal battery.

Boeing is the first company to make extensive use in an airliner of technology's most advanced battery—lithium ion. But a Jan. 7 battery fire aboard a Dreamliner in Boston, followed by a similar meltdown in Japan, led authorities around the world to ground the fleet this month, highlighting a long-standing safety problem that engineers have struggled with.

In 2006 and 2007, more than 46 million cellphone batteries and 10 million laptop batteries—all lithium ion—were recalled because of the risk of overheating, short-circuiting and exploding. Additional safety features have been installed since then on lithium ion batteries used in consumer electronics.

As for the electric car industry, lithium ion batteries have proved to have two major drawbacks: They are costly, and they do not allow automobiles to go far enough between rechargings. A123, a maker of lithium ion batteries for electric cars, went bankrupt last year because of poor demand and high

costs after receiving a \$249 million federal grant.

Lithium ion batteries, which store more energy at a higher voltage and a lighter weight than earlier types, represent the most recent big jump in battery technology. And that took place nearly a quarter of a century ago.

"We need to leapfrog the engineering of making of batteries," said Lawrence Berkeley National Lab battery scientist Vince Battaglia. "We've got to find the next big thing."

But none of the 10 experts who talked to The Associated Press said they know what that big thing will be yet, or when it will come.

"If you crack it ... it'll change the world," said Carnegie Mellon University materials science professor Jay Whitacre.

Batteries are so crucial to a greener energy future that the Obama administration has spent more than \$2 billion to jump-start the advanced battery industry, including setting up what some experts say is a mini-Manhattan Project for batteries.

To make the next breakthrough, researchers will have to master complex chemistry, expensive manufacturing, detailed engineering, a variety of different materials, lengthy testing, stringent safety standards and giant cost problems. It involves dealing with liquids and solids, metals and organic chemicals, and things that are in between, said Glenn Amatucci, director

of the Energy Storage Research Group at Rutgers University.

"We're dealing with a system that you can imagine is almost alive. It's almost breathing," Amatucci said. "Trying to understand what's happening within these batteries is incredibly complex."

One reason the battery is the slowpoke of the high-tech highway is that it has conflicting functions. Its primary job is to store energy. But it's also supposed to discharge power, lots of it, quickly. Those two jobs are at odds with each other.

"If you want high storage, you can't get high power," said M. Stanley Whittingham, director of the Northeast Center for Chemical Energy Storage. "People are expecting more than what's possible."

On the commercial market, lithium ion batteries are generally ones small enough to fit into cellphones. But to power bigger items—from a Prius to a 787—they get grouped together, increasing the juice they store and provide. That also increases the safety risk, experts say. The lithium ion battery that caught fire in a Boeing 787 weighed 63 pounds and was 19 inches long.

"You can't get around the fundamental thing is that lithium ion batteries are stuffed full of flammable liquid," Whitacre said.

Even one-in-a-million problems with lithium ion batteries can result in many fires because there are billions of them

in use now, with dozens sometimes stacked together in a single device.

Experts say lithium ion batteries are more dangerous because their electrolyte, the liquid that allows ions to move between electrodes in the battery, is more flammable than the substance in older type batteries. Those older types include the lead-acid batteries in most cars and the nickel cadmium batteries that are often in video equipment and power tools.

Still, MIT materials science and engineering professor Gerbrand Ceder and others said the safety problems can be fixed.

Change doesn't come often in the battery field.

"The big advances in battery technology happen rarely. It's been more than 200 years and we have maybe five different successful rechargeable batteries," said George Blomgren, a former senior technology researcher at Eveready and now a private battery consultant. "It's frustrating."

Alessandro Volta—for whom the volt is named—invented the first useful battery in 1800. That was long before other breakthrough inventions like the internal combustion engine, telephone, car, airplane, transistor, computer and Internet. But all of those developments have seemed to evolve faster than the simple battery. The lead-acid car battery "has been around for 150 years more or less," Whitacre said. "This is a remarkable testament to first how ro-

bust that chemistry is and how difficult change is."

Battery experts are split over what's next. Some think the lithium ion battery can be tinkered with to get major efficiency and storage improvements. Amatucci said he thinks we can get two to three times more energy out of future lithium ion batteries, while others said minor chemical changes can do even more. But just as many engineers say the lithium ion battery has run its course.

"With the materials in the current lithium ion battery, we are definitely plateaued," Blomgren said. "We're waiting for something to come along that really does the job."

There are all sorts of new type batteries being worked on: lithium-air, lithium-sulfur, magnesium, sodium-ion.

"Right now it's a horse race," Blomgren said. "There's deficiencies in every technology that's out there. Each one of them requires a major solution."

One of the nation's best hopes for a breakthrough, said Battaglia, is John Goodenough, the man responsible for the 1979 breakthrough that led the first commercial lithium ion battery in 1991. He will receive the National Medal of Science at the White House next month.

Goodenough is 90.

"I'm working on it," Goodenough, an engineering professor at the University of Texas at Austin, said Tuesday. "I'm optimistic in a sense that I'm willing to keep working on it. I think we can do some interesting things."

Environment

UN chief wants action on climate

EDITH M. LEDERER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon says his top hopes for 2013 are to reach a new agreement on climate change and to urgently end the increasingly deadly and divisive war in Syria.

The U.N. chief told The Associated Press that he's also hoping for progress in getting the global economy humming again, restarting Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations, promoting political solutions in Mali, Congo and the Central African Republic, and providing energy, food and water to all people.

Ban laid out this ambitious wish list in an interview before heading to the World Economic Forum in Davos this week, saying he plans to take "the uncommon opportunity" of being with some 2,500 government, business and civil society leaders in the Swiss ski resort to exchange frank views on these issues.

"The world is now experiencing unprecedented challenges," Ban said.

"Climate change is fast happening — much, much faster than one would have expected," he said. "Climate and ecosystems are under growing strain."

Ban spoke before President Barack Obama, in his inaugural address Monday, put a similar emphasis on tackling climate



In this Jan. 11, 2013 file photo United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon responds to questions during a news interview at the United Nations headquarters. Ban Ki-moon says his top hopes for 2013 are to reach a new agreement on climate change and to mobilize world leaders to urgently end the increasingly deadly and divisive war in Syria.

change in his second term.

Two-decade-old U.N. climate talks have so far failed in their goal of reducing the carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions that a vast majority of scientists says are warming the

planet. In December, a U.N. climate conference in Doha, Qatar, agreed to extend the Kyoto Protocol, a treaty that limits the greenhouse gas output of some rich countries, and affirmed a previous decision to adopt a new

global climate pact by 2015.

"I will do my best to mobilize the political will and resources so that the member states can agree to a new legally binding global agreement on climate change," Ban said.

Ban urged progress in getting nations and people to use the world's limited resources without waste and in ways to ensure their replacement, so that all people will have enough to eat and drink and there will be electricity for their homes — and have energy to spare to promote economic growth.

"We have to have sustainable development," he said. "That's our number one priority together with climate change."

Momentum for fighting climate change has stalled amid recessions, financial meltdown and government debt crises of the past five years.

"At the same time, we need to see some economic dynamism," Ban said. "The world is still suffering, struggling to overcome its economic crisis."

The forum at Davos, opening Wednesday, focuses this year on how to ensure a more sturdy economic recovery that can withstand the kind of shocks the past few years have wrought — and includes closed-door panels on many of the things worrying Ban. Among the world leaders he may rub elbows with at Davos are Microsoft founder Bill Gates, International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, British Prime Minister David Cameron and South African President Jacob Zuma.

The secretary-general ex-

pressed hope that the major powers will be able to revitalize growth, which will help developing countries meet the U.N. Millennium Development Goals adopted by world leaders to combat poverty by the target date of 2015. The goals include cutting extreme poverty by half, ensuring a primary school education for every child, significantly reducing maternal and infant mortality, and halting and reversing the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

On the political front, Ban said he is deeply concerned about the deteriorating situation in Syria where the conflict will soon be entering its third year.

"I believe that world leaders must address this issue with a top priority and a sense of urgency. We cannot go on like this," he said. "More than 60,000 people have been killed, and if the situation continues like this way, we will have to see more and more death, more and more people who are fleeing Syria."

The secretary-general said he is also mobilizing U.N. envoys and other resources to try to make progress on the faltering Mideast peace process; in Mali, where a French-led military operation is fighting Islamist extremists who control the north and have pushed south toward the capital; the deteriorating political situation in Congo where M23 rebels have gained ground in the volatile east; and in the Central African Republic where rebels whose offensive stopped short of the capital recently signed a peace agreement with the president.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Call it space grave robbery for a cause: Imagine scavenging defunct communication satellites for their valuable parts and recycling them to build brand new ones for cheap.

It's the latest pet project from the Pentagon's research wing known for its quirky and sometimes out-there ideas. The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency is spending \$180 million to test technologies that could make this possible.

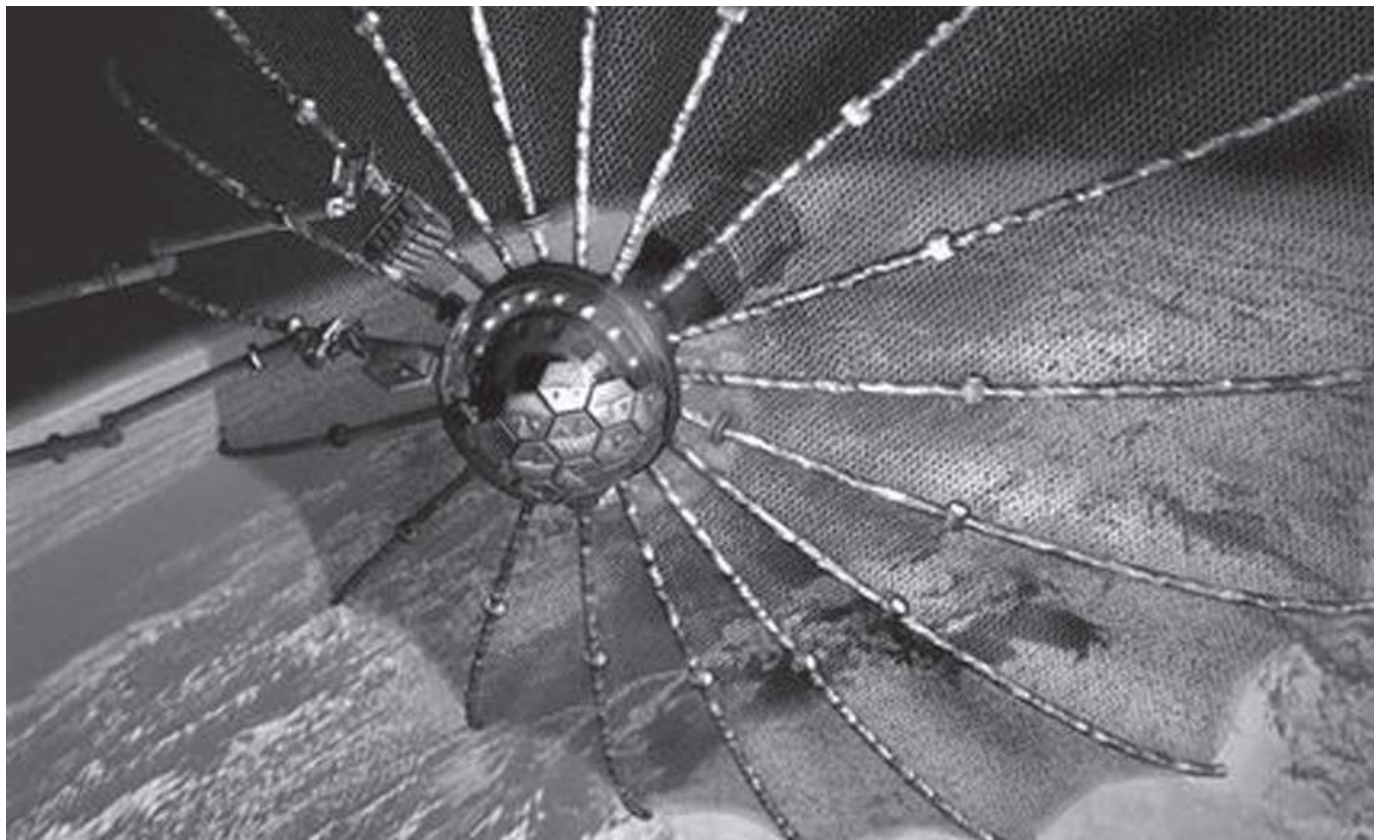
When satellites retire, certain parts—such as antennas and solar panels—often still work. There's currently no routine effort to salvage and reuse satellite parts once they're launched into space.

DARPA thinks it can save money by repurposing in orbit.

"We're attempting to essentially increase the return on investment ... and try to find a way to really change the economics so that we can lower the cost" of military space missions, said DARPA program manager David Barnhart.

Work on DARPA's Phoenix program—named after the mythical bird that rose from its own ashes—is already under way. The agency awarded contracts to several companies to develop new technologies, and it is seeking fresh proposals from

Pentagon researches new life for dead satellites



This illustration released by The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) showing a satellite used for DARPA's Phoenix program scavenging defunct communication satellites for their valuable parts and recycling them to build brand new ones.

interested parties next month.

A key test will come in 2016 when it launches a demonstration mission that seeks to breathe new life to an antenna from a yet-to-be-determined

decommissioned satellite. DARPA has identified about 140 retired satellites that it can choose from for its first test.

Here's the vision: Launch a robotic mechanic outfitted with

a toolkit that can rendezvous with defunct satellites and mine them for parts. The plan also calls for the separate launch of mini-satellites. The robotic mechanic would then string

together the mini-satellites and old satellite parts to create a new communication system.

It's like doing robotic surgery in zero gravity.

DARPA officials said one

way to keep costs down is for the mini-satellites to hitch a ride aboard available space on commercial rockets.

Harvard astrophysicist Jonathan McDowell, who tracks the world's space launches and satellites, called it "an interesting idea" that may reduce costs in the long-term.

"The first few times you do this, it'll definitely be more expensive than just building the new antenna on your satellite from scratch. But in the long run, it might work out," he said in an email.

McDowell said the biggest challenge in the upcoming demo test is separating the antenna from the retired satellite without breaking it and then successfully integrating it with the mini-satellites.

DARPA is used to funding blue-sky research and a few projects are slowly becoming reality.

In 2011, it dangled seed money to jumpstart a way to rocket people to a star within a century in what's known as the 100-year Starship program.

Long before Google tested self-driving cars, DARPA sponsored a robotic road race in which university-designed autonomous vehicles eyed for the finish line without human help.

Life & Style

Disney's 'Aladdin' to sweep into Broadway

NEW YORK (AP)—A stage musical of the animated film “Aladdin” is riding a magic carpet to Broadway and the president of Disney Theatrical Productions promises it will be “a full-length, big song musical with big dance numbers.”

Thomas Schumacher said in an interview that the final two-act “Aladdin” will build on the 1992 film blockbuster with new songs by Alan Menken, additional characters and, appropriately, some magic tricks.

“If I look around Broadway right now, what I want to see is big production numbers. I want to see lush environments. I want surprise,” Schumacher said Friday. “You want a lot of humor, which we will do. And you want heart.”

“Aladdin” will be directed and choreographed by Tony Award-winner Casey Nicholaw, whose

previous hits include “The Book of Mormon” and “The Drowsy Chaperone.” Bob Crowley, who has a Tony for “Mary Poppins,” will design the sets, and Chad Beguelin has written the story and some lyrics.

The musical will first be staged at Toronto’s Ed Mirvish Theatre this November for nine weeks with an eye to bringing it to Broadway’s New Amsterdam Theatre in 2014. “Mary Poppins,” which is currently in the 1,797-seat New Amsterdam Theatre, ends its six-year run in March. The animated version of “Aladdin” starred Rob-



This undated publicity photo provided by Disney Theatrical Productions shows Aladdin with a lamp in a scene from the 1992 animated film, “Aladdin.”

in Williams as the voice of the big blue genie and earned \$500 million worldwide. The film score was created by Menken and Howard Ashman, with additional lyrics provided by Tim Rice after Ashman’s death. Menken won the 1992 Oscar for best original musical score and the film’s hit song, “A Whole New World,” won a Grammy and Oscar.

Finding out how to make the genie come to life onstage was one of the biggest obstacles facing its creators. The answer for Disney was to take him from a shape-shifting blue spirit to a Cab Calloway-styled vaudevillian.

“I do feel pretty confident in what we’ve done with the genie,” said Schumacher. “When you buy a ticket and sit down in a theater, you want the live experience, not a film recreated.”

He also explained why Disney decided to close “Mary Poppins” even though it has been among the top 10 grossing shows for the past six years and top five for attendance: Its profitability wasn’t going to last too much longer. “I could tell that ‘Mary Poppins’ was coming to a place where it wasn’t going to be self-sufficient,” Schumacher said. “I can’t keep it alive artificially.”

‘Mama’ tops box office with \$32.1 million

NEW YORK (AP)—Arnold Schwarzenegger’s post-governorship comeback fizzled at the box office, as his “The Last Stand” earned just \$7.2 million over the three-day holiday weekend.

Instead, the Jessica Chastain horror film “Mama” surpassed expectations with a chart-topping \$32.1 million opening from Friday through Martin Luther King Jr. Day. In its second week of wide release, the Osama bin Laden hunt thriller “Zero Dark Thirty” slid to the second spot with \$18.6 million, meaning Chastain-led films held the top two spots.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Hollywood.com are:

1. **“Mama,”** Universal, \$32,147,815, 2,647 locations, \$12,145 average, \$32,147,815, one week.

2. **“Zero Dark Thirty,”** Sony, \$18,600,381, 2,946 locations, \$6,314 average, \$56,945,138, five weeks.

3. **“Silver Linings Playbook,”** Weinstein Co., \$12,740,379, 2,523 locations, \$5,050 average, \$56,699,649, 10 weeks.

4. **“Gangster Squad,”** Warner Bros., \$10,128,178, 3,103 locations, \$3,264 average, \$33,238,238, two weeks.

5. **“A Haunted House,”** Open Road Films, \$9,472,030, 2,160 locations, \$4,385 average, \$31,085,207, two weeks.

6. **“Broken City,”** Fox, \$9,459,459, 2,620 locations, \$3,610 average, \$9,459,459, one week.

7. **“Django Unchained,”** Weinstein Co., \$9,216,113, 2,516 locations, \$3,663 average,

\$139,334,848, four weeks.

8. **“Les Misérables,”** Universal, \$9,013,605, 2,579 locations, \$3,495 average, \$131,571,625, four weeks.

9. **“The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey,”** Warner Bros., \$7,623,310, 2,323 locations, \$3,282 average, \$288,613,051, six weeks.

10. **“The Last Stand,”** Lionsgate, \$7,213,327, 2,913 locations, \$2,476 average, \$7,213,327, one week.

11. **“Lincoln,”** Disney, \$6,678,228, 2,174 locations, \$3,072 average, \$161,814,307, 11 weeks.

12. **“Parental Guidance,”** Fox, \$5,632,836, 2,337 locations, \$2,410 average, \$67,657,990, four weeks.

13. **“Life of Pi,”** Fox, \$4,207,186, 1,256 locations, \$3,350 average, \$100,044,491, nine weeks.

14. **“The Impossible,”** Summit, \$3,012,182, 886 locations, \$3,400 average, \$10,728,747, five weeks.

15. **“Argo,”** Warner Bros., \$2,717,033, 756 locations, \$3,594 average, \$115,238,587, 15 weeks.

16. **“Jack Reacher,”** Paramount, \$2,685,905, 1,707 locations, \$1,573 average, \$76,863,238, five weeks.

17. **“This Is 40,”** Universal, \$2,297,685, 1,232 locations, \$1,865 average, \$65,178,685, five weeks.

18. **“Wreck-It Ralph,”** Disney, \$2,050,610, 1,312 locations, \$1,563 average, \$181,557,914, 12 weeks.

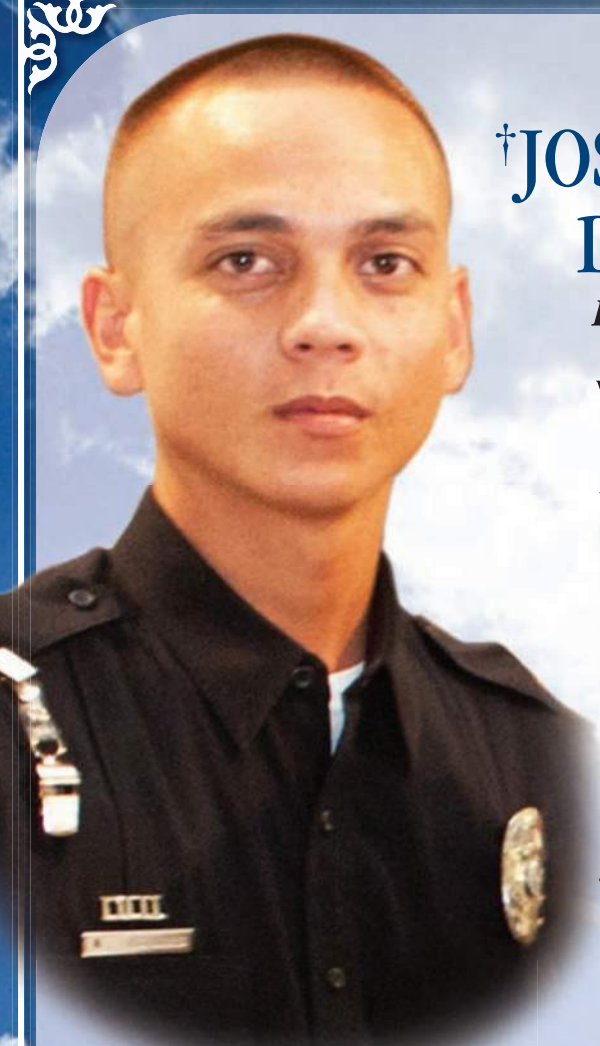
19. **“Texas Chainsaw 3D,”** Lionsgate, \$1,429,933, 1,474 locations, \$970 average, \$33,622,871, three weeks.

20. **“Skyfall,”** Sony, \$1,143,895, 507 locations, \$2,256 average, \$301,030,969, 11 weeks.

IN GOD'S CARE

†JOSEF JOACHIN PALACIOS DE LEON GUERRERO

Lovingly known as “Jay” or “JJ Bodig”



Was born on August 24, 1988 and went to his new home to meet our Lord on January 13, 2013 at the age of 24.

In his new home, Jay will be greeted and reunited with his:

Father: Walter David De Leon Guerrero
Paternal Great Grandmother & Great Great Grand Parents: Maria Crispina Ada De Leon Guerrero; Vicente Diaz & Guadalupe Ada De Leon Guerrero
Maternal Grandparents & Great Grand Parents: Rosario Tudela Palacios & Ricardo Salas Sablan; Joaquin Muna & Francisca Tudela Palacios
Maternal Uncle & Cousin: David Cepeda Sablan; Denise Zayleen Palacios Tenorio

Jay's laughter, pleasant personality and loving memories will forever be in the hearts and treasured by his:

Son: Izeiah Walter
Mother: Jessica Tudela Palacios-Robert
Siblings: David Bradley; Vincent James [Risha Jo'An]; Yerma Darcell [Hayden Lukas Scott; Mia Reece]; Almina; LizAnn Marie; Bradley John, and Maria Crispina.

Paternal Grandparents: Jose Cepeda and Alicia DLG. Leon Guerrero
Maternal Step Grandparents: Ramon S. De Leon Guerrero & Romana A. Villagomez
Aunts & Uncles: Joellene Collette/Albert Abadam & children; Roslyn Monique Leon Guerrero; Guadalupe Maria/Dennis Urdaneta & son; Alana May Leon Guerrero; Marlene Marie Leon Guerrero & children; Jeffrey Leon Guerrero & daughter; Zeniva T. Palacios & children; David T. & Linglin Palacios & children; Tina P. & Erwin T. Flores & children; Josepha DLG. & John Siquenza & children; Glenn D. & Vanessa Diaz & children; Vincent P. De Leon Guerrero & Juanette Apatang Camacho & children; Renee Diaz & Gus Michael Cruz & children; Isidro & Bernadita Sablan Cabrera; Jose P. & Vicente M. Sablan & children; Antonio P. Sablan & Patricia A. Concepcion & children; Marina Borja & children; Melanie B. & William Camacho & children; Benigno C. & Kulani DLG. Sablan and children; Ricardo C. Sablan & children; Katherine C. Sablan & family; Glenn C. & Karen Sablan & children; Vincent; Manuel; Frankie; Jesse; Rosanna

Jay is also loved and cherished by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, and friends.

Daily masses of intentions are offered at 6:00 a.m. and rosary is prayed at 7:00 p.m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Jay will be with us for the last time on Saturday, January 26, 2013 and visitation and last respects are welcomed beginning at 8:00 a.m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed immediately with interment at Mount Carmel Cemetery where he will be laid to rest.

Your thoughts and most especially your prayers are sincerely appreciated.

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Broken City

Friday		4:10	7:10	10:00
Saturday and Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	10:00
Monday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Tues through Thurs		4:10	7:10	

Cast: Mark Wahlberg, Russell Crowe, Catherine Zeta-Jones
Genre: Drama • Rated R

Synopsis

An ex-cop turned private eye (Mark Wahlberg) is thrown head-first into a hotbed of trouble after a mayor (Russell Crowe) hires him to look into his cheating wife. Book of Eli's Allen Hughes directs from a script by Brian Tucker.



The Last Stand

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday and Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Monday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Tues through Thurs		4:05	7:05	

Cast: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Forest Whitaker
Genre: Action • Rated R

Synopsis

Arnold Schwarzenegger stars as Sheriff Owens, a disgraced lawman who fled the LAPD to lord over the sleepy border town of Sommerton Junction, which becomes the only thing in the way of an escaped head of a drug cartel's path to freedom in Lionsgate's *The Last Stand*. I Saw the Devil's Kim Jee-woon directs from a script by Andrew Knauer and Jeffrey Nachmanoff.



Mama

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday and Sunday	1:20	4:00	7:00	9:30
Monday	1:20	4:00	7:00	
Tues through Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Cast: Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Jessica Chastain
Genre: Horror • Rated PG 13



Gangsters Squad

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:50
Saturday and Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:50
Monday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Tues through Thurs		4:15	7:15	

Cast: Sean Penn, Ryan Gosling, Josh Brolin
Genre: Crime • Rated R



Les Misérables

Friday		4:20	7:50	
Saturday and Sunday	1:00	4:20	7:50	
Monday	1:00	4:20	7:50	
Tues through Thurs		4:20	7:50	

Cast: Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe, Anne Hathaway
Genre: Musical • Rated PG 13



Texas Chainsaw 3D

Friday		7:30	9:45	
Saturday and Sunday	1:30	7:30	9:45	
Monday	1:30	7:30		
Tues through Thurs		7:30		

Cast: Alexandra Daddario, Scott Eastwood
Genre: Horror • Rated R



Texas Chainsaw 2D

Friday		4:30		
Saturday and Sunday		4:30		
Monday		4:30		
Tues through Thurs		4:30		

Cast: Alexandra Daddario, Scott Eastwood
Genre: Horror • Rated R



The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D

Friday		7:55		
Saturday and Sunday	12:55	7:55		
Monday	12:55	7:55		
Tues through Thurs		7:55		

Cast: Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13



The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 2D

Friday		4:25		
Saturday and Sunday		4:25		
Monday		4:25		
Tues through Thurs		4:25		

Cast: Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13

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Wahlberg: Boy band union is strong for summer tour

NEW YORK (AP)—For Donnie Wahlberg it's not a matter of why now, rather "why not?"

The recording artist-turned-actor was referring to the news of a major tour with his New Kids on the Block, who'll be joined this summer on "The Package Tour" by 98 Degrees and Boyz II Men.

"The state of the boy band union is strong," Wahlberg joked Tuesday. "Even though technically we're not really boy bands, but we're OK with that, so we'll accept it."

The three bands sold millions of records in the 1980s and '90s and helped usher in a wave of vocal groups that continues today.

The Boston-based NKOTB formed in 1984 and amassed ten Top 20 hits. They broke up in 1994 but got back together after a 14-year hiatus. Wahlberg said he feels the break coincided with the maturation of their fan base.

"They needed time to have families and husbands and children and get jobs and live their life," Wahlberg said.

But now he sees his band's music as a complement to the fans' adult lives.

"We created an outlet for

Shakira gives birth to baby boy



AP

This Jan. 28, 2012 file photo shows Colombian singer Shakira arriving at the Cannes festival palace, to take part in the NRJ Music awards ceremony, in Cannes, southeastern France.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Shakira is a mama.

A spokeswoman for the 35-year-old Colombian singer says Shakira Mebarak and 25-year-old soccer star Gerard Pique of FC Barcelona welcomed son Milan Pique Mebarak on Tuesday at 9:36 p.m. in Barcelona, Spain.

A statement posted on the pop star's site in English, Spanish and Catalan says that "just like his father, baby Milan became a member of FC Barcelona at birth." The statement also says Milan weighed approximately 6 pounds, 6 ounces, and that "both mother and child are in excellent health."

Shakira asked fans earlier Tuesday on Twitter "to accompany me in your prayers on this very important day of my life."

Milan is the couple's first child.



AP

This May 8, 2009 file photo shows members of New Kids on the Block, from left, Joey McIntyre, Donnie Wahlberg, Jonathan Knight, Jordan Knight, and Danny Wood on the NBC "Today" television program in New York.

them to feel good about themselves and tap into that youthfulness that had been put to bed for a long time ... you may be 40, but the euphoria of it makes you feel 14 all over again," Wahlberg said.

The band also announced a new single, "Remix (I Like The)," which will be released Jan. 28, and a new album, "10," which is out April 2.

That music will be a bit more mature than some of the band's previous material, member Joey McIntyre said.

"It is about the decisions that a grown man makes and goes through, as opposed to singing

songs like 'Popsicle,'" he said.

Nathan Morris, one of the members of Boyz II Men, known since the early 1990s for such hits as "I'll Make Love to You" and "End of the Road," said the tour is going to be all about performing.

"If the boy band thing is attached, it's wonderful, but for all of us in here, we're ready to get out there and sing and perform," he said. "That's just what we do."

Though 98 Degrees is the youngest group on the bill, it has been apart the longest, 12 years.

"So we're excited to get back

together and doing what we do," member Nick Lachey said. "We feel reinvigorated by our bond and by our group, so we're very excited by that."

Wahlberg, who stars as Detective Danny Reagan on the CBS television series "Blue Bloods," said the boy bands' tour, kicking off May 31 in Uncasville, Conn., and continuing into July with more than 30 dates, is going to be "great."

"You have three acts that have lots of records, lots of fans," he said. "Fans that are anxious to sing those records and anxious to sing other bands' records, too."

Al Green: Turned down 'Together' time with Obamas

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Al Green says if things had worked out, it would have been him serenading President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle at the inaugural ball.

Jennifer Hudson sang Green's classic "Let's Stay Together," leaving many to wonder why the soul legend wasn't singing his own hit for the first couple.

In a statement to The Associated Press, his representative said Green had been asked to sing, but scheduling conflicts prevented him from attending Monday's festivities. Green said he'd be honored to sing for the president in the future.

The Presidential Inaugural Committee did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Obama famously sang a snippet of the song at an event last year that Green attended.



AP

This July 5, 2009 file photo shows Al Green performing during the Essence Music Festival in New Orleans.

Man pleads no contest to stalking Mila Kunis

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles County prosecutors say a 27-year-old man has been ordered stay away from "That 70s Show" and "Black Swan" actress Mila Kunis for 10 years after pleading no contest to stalking her.

Spokeswoman Jane Robison

says Stuart Dunn entered his plea Tuesday and was also ordered to complete six months of residential rehab and placed on five years of felony probation.

Dunn has repeatedly been arrested in his pursuit of Kunis.

In February, he was arrested for breaking into her vacant condo,

and authorities arrested him again in May, after he waited for her outside her gym for three days.

Superior Court Judge George Lomeli also gave Dunn credit for 528 days he spent in jail.

Dunn was also ordered to stay away from Kunis' agents, managers and assistants.

Did or didn't she? Beyonce questioned on lip sync

WASHINGTON (AP)—There's no question Beyonce's rendition of the national anthem was a roaring success. The mystery: was it live or lip synced?

On Tuesday, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Marine Band told news outlets that Beyonce had lip synced at President Barack Obama's inauguration. Master Sgt. Kristin duBois said the band was notified at the last minute that Beyonce would use a pre-recorded voice track.

But by late afternoon, the Marine Corps backed off that statement.

Marine Corps spokesman Capt. Gregory Wolf said that because there was no opportunity for Beyonce to rehearse with the Marine Band, it was determined that a live performance by the band was ill advised. Instead they used a pre-recorded track for the band's portion of the song.

"Regarding Ms. Knowles-Carter's vocal performance," Wolf's statement continued, "no one in the Marine Band is in a position to assess whether it was live or pre-recorded."

A representative for Beyonce did not respond to requests for comment.

DuBois declined to answer further questions. Earlier in the day,



Beyonce sings the national anthem at the ceremonial swearing-in at the U.S. Capitol during the 57th Presidential Inauguration in Washington, Monday, Jan. 21, 2013.

she told The New York Times that the rest of the inaugural performance was live and they did not know why a recorded track was used for the national anthem.

"It's not because Beyonce can't sing. We all know Beyonce can sing. We all know the Marine Band can play," she said.

Kelly Clarkson's representative said she sang live to perform "My

Country, 'Tis of Thee."

Inaugural organizers did not respond to requests for comment.

All inaugural music is pre-recorded in case weather conditions or other circumstances could interrupt the program.

The use of a recording is typical in big events. In 2009, cellist Yo-Yo Ma was questioned about "hand-syncing" for Obama's first

inauguration. Ma said instruments weren't functioning properly in 19-degree weather.

Even in good conditions, producing good sound can be a challenge in a large open space.

Some artists choose to lip-sync. Whitney Houston's memorable performance of the national anthem in 1991 at the Super Bowl was sung to a track.

Haitian amputee makes comeback on dance floor

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Georges Exantus thought he'd never dance again. He was lucky just to be alive.

The earthquake three years ago in Haiti's capital flattened the apartment where he was living and he spent three days trapped under jagged rubble. After friends dug him out, doctors amputated his right leg just below the knee.

Israeli doctors and physical therapists who came to Haiti after the quake sent him to Israel for surgery and rehabilitation.

Three years later, the 31-year-old professional dancer is back on the floor, spinning away as he does the salsa, cha-cha and samba. A prosthetic leg doesn't hold him back.

Exantus says he's the same per-

son he was before the Jan. 12, 2010, earthquake struck southern Haiti.

But it's clear the life of the young man nicknamed "The Gladiator" has been changed by the disaster that killed tens of thousands of people and forced an estimated 4,000 to 6,000 survivors to undergo amputations because of gangrene-related infections.

Exantus walks with a slight limp. He can't dance as fast as he used to or balance as well or do some of his old moves, such as flipping his partner over his shoulder.

Exantus has also learned to ignore the long stares and quiet whispers, products of a longstanding stigma in Haiti for people with disabilities. Before the quake, few resources existed to accommodate Haiti's disabled, and many regard

people with disabilities as misfits.

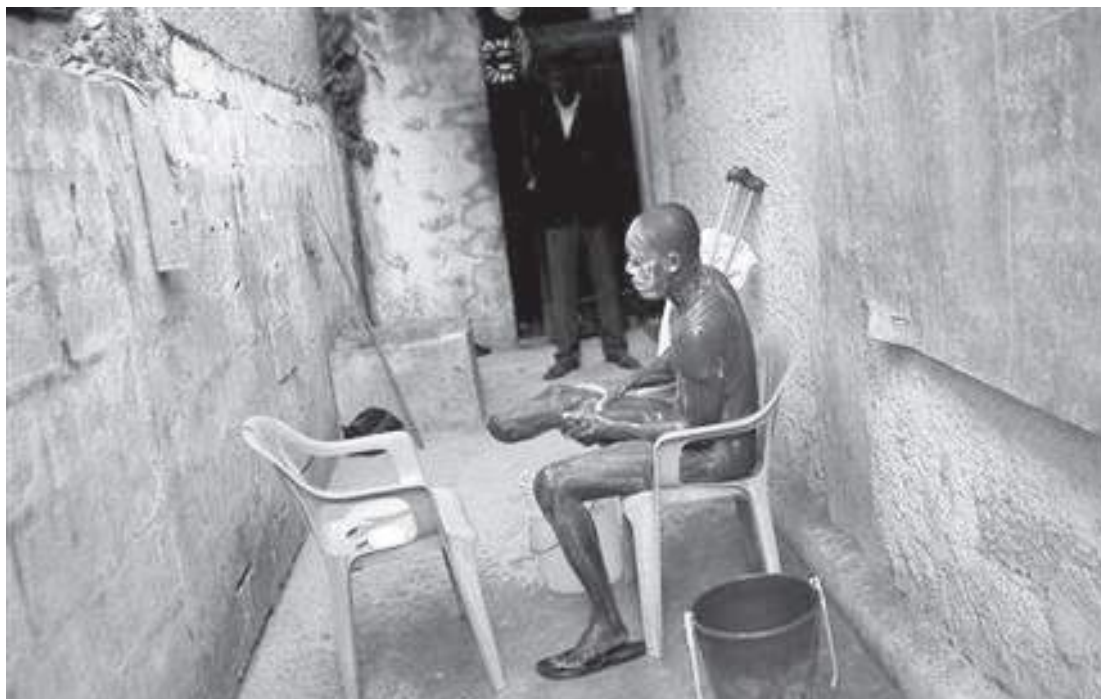
"I'm not focused on what people say about me or how society sees me," says Exantus, who married his girlfriend in July on a dance floor.

If some see him as something of an outcast, his friends find inspiration: He's not one for self-pity; he was determined to dance again, and did. He's part of a Latin dance company and gives classes.

"Some victims of Jan. 12 stay in the same place and they can't do anything," says dance partner and friend Modeline Gene Arhan, 26. "Georges has a goal. He's always thinking of where he's going."

He's already made one dream come true.

"As long as I'm living," Exantus says, "I'm going to dance."



In this July 20, 2012 photo, professional dancer Georges Exantus washes at home as he prepares for his wedding in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Unmarried couple doesn't see eye to eye on living together

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am a woman in my early 20s and in my first serious relationship. I adore "Paul." We have a wonderful, respectful relationship. One day I hope we'll be married.

I feel strongly that we should not live together before we are married. He disagrees. He feels couples need to know each other's habits fully before they make a lifelong commitment.

I understand the financial and emotional convenience of sharing a home with your loved one. However, I believe that marriage changes a living dynamic whether you have lived together or not. Conflicts that arise post-marriage can be faced with a greater sense of resolve, knowing that a formal commitment has been made.

Abby, what's your take on this? Should couples live together before marriage? I don't want to be stubborn and say I'll never live with anyone before getting married, because I know it's a very common thing to do. What can I say to Paul and friends who disagree with me to defend my "old-fashioned" logic?

TRADITIONALIST IN CHICAGO

DEAR TRADITIONALIST: I don't think you should argue with them on the subject at all. Just say that although many couples live together today without marriage, YOU aren't comfortable with it. You are not the only person who feels this way. Many people with strong religious convictions feel the way you do about it. In my opinion, this is something that couples should work out between themselves.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My next-door neighbor "Rod" and I work at the same place, about 10 miles from our homes. He has a medical condition that prevents him from driving. Until recently, he took the bus, but that route was stopped, so he now relies on his wife for transportation every day. She works and also takes care of their three kids.

Last summer, I drove Rod for a while, but he was a terrible carpool companion. He was perpetually late, and I'd have to wait for him in the morning and after work. He would brag nonstop about how good he is at his job, and then want to stand around in our driveway chatting instead of just going inside.

He never offered to pay for gas or compensate me in any way, and seemed unable to find other arrangements when I had to work late or run errands after work, which made me feel trapped in his schedule. I finally got tired of the hassle and made an excuse to stop driving him.

There is no real reason I can't take him now except that he was such a pain in the you-know-what that I don't want to. But I feel guilty when I see his wife loading up all their kids to make the drive.

What's the right thing to do? We may be neighbors for a very long time.

KIND COMMUTER IN MADISON, WIS.

DEAR KIND COMMUTER: I recognize your generosity in extending yourself to your co-worker, who apparently never learned the basics of carpool etiquette. Because you got nothing positive out of driving him, I do not recommend you start again. However, if you would like to do his wife a favor, see if there are transportation services for people with disabilities in your city, and if there are, give that information to her.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



This Sept. 7, 2012 file photo shows actress Mickey Sumner at the "Imogene" premiere during the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto.

Sting's daughter to make her off-Broadway debut

NEW YORK (AP)—Sting's daughter Mickey Sumner has signed up to make her off-Broadway debut in Craig Lucas's new comedy "The Lying Lesson."

The Atlantic Theater Company said Tuesday that Sumner, whose credits also include the new Noah Baumbach film "Frances Ha," will star opposite Carol Kane in the comic thriller.

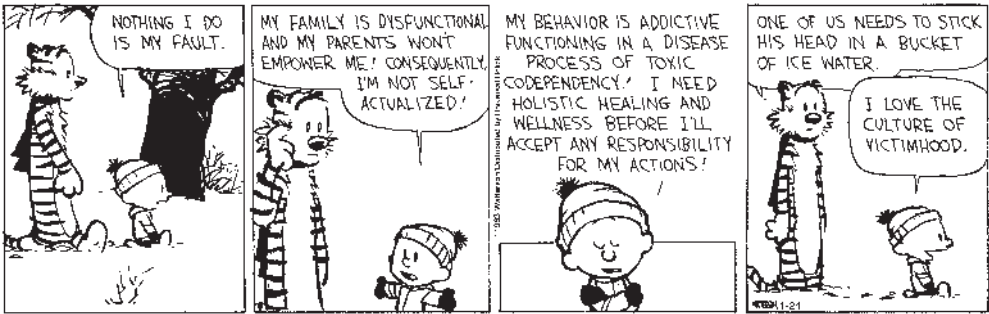
Kane plays a woman who may or may not be legendary screen star Bette Davis and Sumner will portray a woman who tries to discover her true identity.

Previews begin Feb. 20 with an opening set for March 13. Tony Award-nominated director Pam MacKinnon will replace Anna D. Shapiro as the play's director.

Sumner, whose mother is Trudie Styler, made her New York stage debut in a Culture Project workshop of "The Seagull" and is featured in the Showtime series "The Borgias."

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15 Tolerate

16 Whatever number

17 "— have to do"

18 Release

20 Heart lines

22 Sauce source

23 Prickly seedcase

24 Scenery chews

27 After-noon shows

32 Biz deg.

33 Journalist Tarbell

34 "Erie Canal" mule

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3 Colorful fish

4 Swamp

5 Easily prepared product

6 Grecian vessel

7 Poet Angelou

8 Slalom slope

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11 Solidifies

19 "When pigs fly!"

21 Japanese sash

24 "Let me think ..."

25 "The — Daba Honey-moon"

26 Compact car maker?

28 Citric beverage

29 Devil's home?

30 Chow down

31 — -mo replay

36 Toughest to find

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38 Young one

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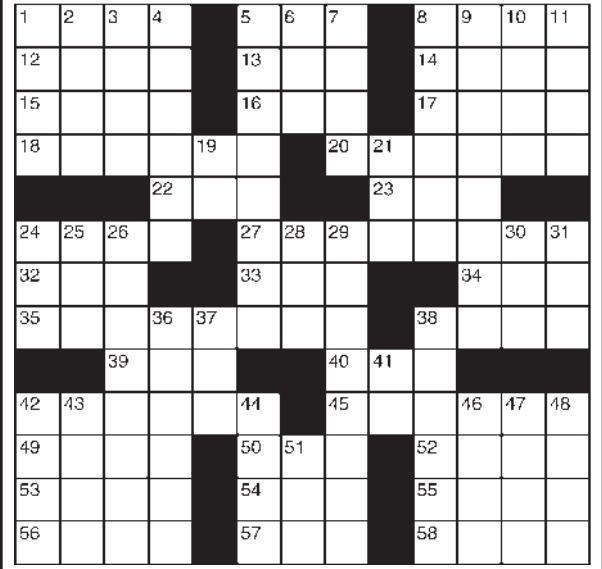
47 Lasso

48 Anthro-pologist Margaret

51 Individual

Solution time: 25 mins.

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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Micha Barton, 27; Tatyana Ali, 34; Ed Helms, 39; Neil Diamond, 72.

Happy Birthday: A creative approach to how you do any job you are given will be your best bet. Once you differentiate between what other people offer and what you can supply, you will find it much easier to beat any competition you encounter. Share your knowledge and skills and you will develop a good working relationship with your peers. Your numbers are 4, 13, 20, 23, 31, 40, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You may have to appease someone you care about. Emotional matters will escalate if you aren't willing to back down or at least compromise. Helping a cause is fine but not if it affects a close relationship. Pick and choose your battles wisely. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Communicate and you will get your point across. Love is on the rise and making future plans will bring you closer together. Someone is likely to call your bluff or ask for a commitment. Your timing must be impeccable. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Someone will offer you poor advice or information. Do your own research before you make a decision that will alter your reputation. Keep life simple, honor your commitments and you will find workable solutions for any troublesome encounter you face. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Determination will get you where you want to go, but don't be foolish and overspend to make an impression. Only offer what you can afford. Giving in to demands will set you back and cause a problem with someone you love. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A business trip or meeting will pay off as long as you are consistent and stay within your means. A partnership can help you meet the demands being put on you, but only if you are both willing to share responsibilities equally. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Give others a chance to express what they would like to see happen before you make a decision that affects others. Networking will pay off in terms of the people you connect with and the information you receive. Love is highlighted. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't let an emotional situation stop you from doing what's right. Only offer what's feasible and be prepared to do things a little differently in order to reach desired results. An element of surprise will help you grab the attention of someone important. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Stick to the people you know you can trust. Sharing information with someone unfamiliar will lead to a loss. Stick close to home and explore some of the creative ideas you would like to flush out and put into play in the future. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't sit there waiting for someone else to make the first move. Follow your instincts and do what's best for you. Altering the way you live can result in greater opportunities. Be open to suggestions but follow your heart. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Size up your situation and you will soon see a right way and a wrong way to proceed. You have to be true to your ethics and morals even if it means letting someone down. Truth will lead you in the right direction. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It may take a little work, but if you look hard enough, you will find a solution for a sticky situation you face with a friend or relative. Spend time at home creating a space that will lead to extra income or comfort. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You are in the groove, and people will take notice of what you do. Mix practicality with ingenuity and interesting concepts, and you will create a buzz that will result in getting the support and help you need. Romance is highlighted. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are an opportunist. You are quick, intelligent and have great vision.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

					1		2	
	9				8	6		
		2						7
7				8	5	9		
	5						3	
		3	4	2				6
5						1		
		6	5				4	
	2		7					

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	7	9	5	8	1	4	3	6
1	4	6	3	9	7	5	8	2
5	3	8	6	2	4	7	9	1
4	2	1	7	6	8	9	5	3
7	9	3	4	5	2	6	1	8
8	6	5	1	3	9	2	4	7
3	8	7	9	4	6	1	2	5
9	1	2	8	7	5	3	6	4
6	5	4	2	1	3	8	7	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

WINDOWS 8 Solution: 5 letters

R	W	E	B	S	V	E	R	S	I	O	N	S	M	T
M	E	S	S	A	G	I	N	G	S	T	E	O	E	F
A	B	Q	Y	U	C	N	R	B	O	L	D	L	T	O
N	S	R	U	N	O	K	I	T	I	E	B	E	S	S
A	I	A	O	I	C	M	G	T	U	A	V	C	Y	O
G	T	C	N	W	R	H	S	R	T	A	S	A	S	R
E	E	C	I	A	S	E	R	T	O	E	L	P	S	C
M	F	O	G	S	T	E	M	O	O	U	S	S	A	I
E	I	U	O	A	U	R	M	E	N	R	N	D	P	M
N	R	N	L	H	O	M	E	A	N	I	A	D	O	K
T	E	T	T	F	I	L	E	S	I	Z	G	W	S	
Y	W	S	T	S	P	O	T	P	A	L	S	E	E	A
A	A	A	P	P	S	S	R	E	F	S	N	A	R	T
L	L	A	T	S	N	I	R	U	P	D	A	T	E	S
P	L	A	I	C	O	S	K	Y	D	R	I	V	E	T

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Yesterday's Answer: Bulgaria

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This job announcement will remain open until February 1st, 2013. A job application and the full edition of the Family Court Manager's Job Vacancy Announcement are available at the CNMI Judiciary's web site: <http://www.justice.gov.mp/>.

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Serena loses in quarters, Azarenka into semis



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Serena Williams' dominating run at the majors is over. American teenager Sloane Stephens is headed to the semifinals of the Australian Open.

Williams injured her back in the second set, hampering her serve, and the 19-year-old Stephens kept her composure in a 3-6, 7-5, 6-4 victory on Wednesday.

It was the first loss since Aug. 17 for the 15-time Grand Slam winner, ending a run of 20 consecutive wins. She hadn't lost a match at a Grand Slam tournament since the French Open, where the first-round exit sparked a resurgence in the second half of 2012 that included titles at Wimbledon, the London Olympics, the U.S. Open and the WTA Championship.

After winning her first Grand Slam quarterfinal, Stephens next plays defending champion Victoria Azarenka.

With her most famous fan sitting in the crowd wearing a shirt reminding her to keep calm, top-ranked Azarenka overcame some early jitters to beat Svetlana Kuznetsova 7-5, 6-1 in the earlier quarterfinal match on Rod Laver Arena.

After dropping serve in a long fourth game which went to deuce 10 times, Azarenka recovered to dominate the rest of the match against Kuznetsova, a two-time major winner who was floating dangerously in the draw with a No. 75 ranking as she recovers from a knee injury.

Azarenka's American rapper friend, Redfoo, returned from a concert in Malaysia to attend Wednesday's quarterfinal match.

Wearing a red sleeveless T-shirt that read "Keep Calm and Bring Out the Bottles," the name of his next single, Redfoo stood, clapped and yelled "Come on, Vikal!" during the tight first set.

Asked if it helped to have her No. 1 fan wearing a keep calm logo, Azarenka said "I was looking more at the part that says 'Bring out the bottles.'"

Of her game, she added, "I'm just glad I could produce my good tennis when it was needed."

Williams' loss was a boost for Azarenka, who



Sloane Stephens, left, of the US is congratulated by compatriot Serena Williams after winning their quarterfinal match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2013.

lost all five head-to-heads against the American in 2012 and is 1-11 in their career meetings.

In the men's quarterfinals, 17-time major winner Roger Federer was playing No. 7 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in a night match and U.S. Open champion Andy Murray was to meet Jeremy Chardy of France.

Novak Djokovic is already through to the semifinals after his 6-1, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 win over fifth-seeded Tomas Berdych on Tuesday night.

The 2-hour, 31-minute victory took exactly half the time of his five-set, fourth-round win against

Stanislas Wawrinka.

"It was a great performance. I was hoping to have a shorter match ... just not to go over 5 hours," Djokovic said, in a comparatively subdued mood after a more routine victory. "It's always going to be tough against Tomas; he's an established player. He has a big game, big serve. He can compete against anyone on any surface."

Djokovic will meet No. 4-seeded David Ferrer in the semifinals.

Ferrer survived a quarterfinal battle with fellow Spaniard Nicolas Almagro. Almagro had three

chances to serve for the match, but Ferrer broke back each time and went on to win 4-6, 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (4), 6-2.

Maria Sharapova had a 6-2, 6-2 quarterfinal win over Ekaterina Makarova on Tuesday, and has conceded only nine games in five matches - a record in Australia.

"To be honest, those are not the stats you want to be known for," Sharapova said.

She'll play Li Na, who reached the semifinals for the third time in four years at Melbourne Park after beating Agnieszka Radwanska 7-5, 6-3.

NFL lifts suspension of Saints coach Sean Payton



NEW YORK (AP) -- Sean Payton is back as coach of the New Orleans Saints.

Payton's season-long suspension for his role in the Saints' bounty program was lifted by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell on Tuesday, nearly two weeks earlier than expected.

The decision allows Payton to attend the Senior Bowl in Mobile, Ala., on Saturday, where some of the top college players available for the NFL draft will be competing.

Payton, along with assistant head coach Joe Vitt, general manager Mickey Loomis, and four players including Jonathan Vilma, was suspended after an investigation found the club had a performance pool offering cash rewards for key plays, including big hits. The player suspensions eventually were overturned.

"I clearly recognize that mistakes were made, which led to league violations," Payton said in a statement. "Furthermore, I have assured the commissioner a more diligent protocol will be followed."

The suspension was scheduled to end after the Super Bowl on Feb. 3, but was moved up after Payton and Goodell met on Monday.

"Coach Payton acknowledged in the meeting his responsibility for the actions of his coaching staff and players and pledged to uphold the highest standards of the NFL and ensure that his staff and players do so as well," Goodell said in a statement. "Sean fully complied with all the requirements imposed on him during his suspension."

"More important, it is clear that Sean understands and accepts his responsibilities as a head coach and the vital role that coaches play in promoting player safety and setting an example for how the game should be played at all levels."

Callahan denies allegations of Super Bowl sabotage

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP)—Former Oakland coach Bill Callahan has denied allegations made by two of his former players that he "sabotaged" the Raiders in their Super Bowl loss to Tampa Bay 10 years ago.

Former Raiders receivers Tim Brown and Jerry Rice both said in recent interviews they believe Callahan undermined his own team in the Super Bowl in 2003 because of his close friendship with Tampa Bay coach Jon Gruden by altering the game plan less than two days before Oakland's 48-21 loss.

"While I fully understand a competitive professional football player's disappointment when a game's outcome doesn't go his team's way, I am shocked, saddened and outraged by Tim Brown's allegations and Jerry Rice's support of those allegations made through various media outlets over the last 24 hours," Callahan said Tuesday in a statement. "To leave no doubt, I categorically and unequivocally deny the sum and substance of their allegations."

The hubbub over a game played a decade ago began Monday when Brown said on Sirius XM Radio that he believed Callahan altered the game plan because of his close ties to Gruden, the former Raiders coach who hired Callahan,

and because Callahan hated the Raiders.

"We all called it sabotage, because Callahan and Gruden was good friends, and Callahan had a big problem with the Raiders, hated the Raiders, and only came because Gruden made him come," Brown said.

While many of Brown's teammates, including quarterback Rich Gannon, came to Callahan's defense on radio and Twitter on Tuesday, Rice sided with Brown that Callahan's decision to shift the game plan from a run-oriented attack to a pass-heavy offense after a week of practice was done to hurt the team.

"I was very surprised that he waited till the last second and I think a lot of the players they were surprised also so in a way maybe because he didn't like the Raiders he decided 'Hey look maybe we should sabotage just a little bit and let Jon Gruden go out and win this one,'" Rice told ESPN.

Both Rice and Brown also said the decision to alter the plan less than two days before the game might have contributed to starting center Barret Robbins leaving the team that Friday night to go party in Tijuana. Robbins missed a team meeting and walkthrough and was suspended for the game. He was hospitalized and diagnosed as bipolar.

nator Aaron Kromer, now the offensive coordinator in Chicago.

Loomis and Vitt are in Mobile evaluating players. Loomis said he was caught off guard by the news of Payton's return. But he said having Payton back sooner than expected will help the Saints.

"Every day makes a difference. We've certainly missed Sean in terms of the football team and all

the things that go with our business and the game. But look, I miss his friendship. We all miss his friendship. We miss him as a person. I'm excited that he's going to be back here and fired up that he's back."

Vitt said he talked to Payton Tuesday morning and that he should join the Saints' contingent in Alabama on Wednesday.

"We just found out on the way to practice," Vitt said. "Mr. B called Mickey and we're all excited. Sean went and spent the day in New York (Monday). He just got back in Dallas. I talked to him on the phone about 5 o'clock this morning. He's packing his bags so we'll expect he'll be here some time" Wednesday.

Vitt agreed with Loomis that the timing of Payton's return is good for the team.

Payton is "going to hit the ground running with both feet. His jaw is going to be set. He'll have a note pad full of thoughts and ideas and he's going to have to get himself caught up with the evaluation process of our team and looking at film, which he'll do. This is perfect, getting him back now, because he's going to be here for the readings of our players. He's going to be here for the readings of these college seniors. We start handing out unrestricted free agent tape on Thursday and Friday of this week."

"This is where you're building the foundation of your football team, with the evaluation process of these draft eligible juniors and seniors and the free agents that are out there."

There remains one outstanding issue for the Saints stemming from the bounty probe: What will become of the Saints' second pick next spring. As part of the bounty punishment, Goodell fined the Saints \$500,000 and took away second-round picks in 2012 and 2013. However, Goodell left open the possibility of restoring the 2013 second-rounder and instead docking the team a later-round pick if he is satisfied with the club's level of cooperation in the bounty matter.

Thunder beat Clippers to extend West lead



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kevin Durant scored 32 points, Russell Westbrook added 26 and the Oklahoma City Thunder defeated the Los Angeles Clippers 109-97 on Tuesday night in a match-up of teams with the two best records in the NBA.

Serge Ibaka added 17 points before fouling out late while helping the Thunder improve to a league-leading 33-9 and expand their lead in the Western Conference standings to 1 1/2 games over the Clippers, who were without All-Star Chris Paul and fell to 32-11.

Blake Griffin had 31 points and 11 rebounds, and Jamal Crawford added 14 points off the bench. Eric Bledsoe scored 12 points starting in place of Paul, who missed his fourth game because of a bruised right kneecap. He missed three road wins last week, then played the next two games but it was obvious Paul wasn't himself so he was held out Tuesday.

The Clippers had won four straight at home against the Thunder, and they led much of the first quarter before giving up the lead for good early in the second.

Los Angeles made a run to start the fourth, with Grant Hill and Crawford combining to score seven in a row and close to 82-75. That was as close as the Clippers came in losing their second straight.

Durant keyed a 3-point barrage over the next nearly 4 minutes, making three of them himself while Westbrook added one and Ibaka had another to extend the Thunder's lead to 99-82—their largest of the game. Durant scored on a driving dunk to make it 101-85, then punctuated it by punching his right arm in the air.

Bucks 110, Sixers 102

In Milwaukee, Ersan Ilyasova had 27 points and 16 rebounds, Brandon Jennings scored 25 points and the Milwaukee Bucks beat the Philadelphia 76ers 110-102 on Tuesday night.

Monta Ellis added 18 points and 10 assists for Milwaukee, which has won six of eight games since Jim Boylan replaced former coach Scott Skiles, who parted ways with the team following a season-worst four-game losing streak.

Evan Turner scored 23 points to lead the 76ers, Spencer Hawes added 21 points and 12 rebounds, and Nick Young scored had 20 points. Philadelphia lost its fifth straight on the road, and 15th in its last 21 overall.

The Sixers used a 17-7 run to start the fourth quarter to cut the Bucks' lead to 90-86 when Thaddeus Young stole the ball and scored on a breakaway layup with 6:47 remaining.

Ilyasova made 1 of 2 free throws to extend Milwaukee's lead to 99-92 with



Los Angeles Clippers forward Blake Griffin, right, gets Oklahoma City Thunder forward Serge Ibaka, of Congo, in a head lock as he drives toward the basket during the second half of their NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2013, in Los Angeles. The Thunder won, 109-97.

Grizzlies, Cavs agree to multi-player trade

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—The Memphis Grizzlies traded Marreese Speights, Wayne Ellington, Josh Selby and a future first-round draft pick Tuesday to the Cleveland Cavaliers for Jon Leuer.

The trade is the first big move by the Grizzlies' new ownership and clears about \$6 million in salary in getting Memphis under the luxury tax threshold this season. The Grizzlies rank fourth in the West and are 6-4 over their past 10 games after the NBA's best start this season.

The deal gives the lottery-bound Cavs another first-round pick to improve a team entering Tuesday night's home game against Boston with a 10-32 record - second-worst in the Eastern Conference. Speights also will help replace center Anderson Varejao who will miss the remainder of the season after developing a blood clot in his right lung.

Varejao remains hospitalized at The Cleveland Clinic.

3:56 left. He then hit a jumper with about 2 1/2 minutes to go, stretching the advantage to nine points.

Hawes hit a baseline jumper to trim

The ownership group led by Robert Pera took over the Grizzlies on Nov. 5, and they had been scheduled to pay about \$4 million in luxury tax this season with a payroll more than \$74 million. This should help Memphis keep its starters Rudy Gay, Zach Randolph, Marc Gasol, Mike Conley and Tony Allen together the rest of this season for another postseason run.

"It's a trade that had to be made from a business decision, so we have a chance to keep our core together and we move forward," Memphis coach Lionel Hollins said. "Hate to lose Mo and Wayne or Josh, but it's part of the business of basketball and you have to do things. You have to make some tough decisions, and tough decisions were made and we live with them and move forward."

Speights is earning \$4.2 million this season, while Ellington's salary is \$2 million. The Grizzlies also get a \$6.4 million trade exception good

the lead to 101-94 with 1:39 remaining, but Milwaukee made 4 of 6 free throws in the final minute to seal the win.

Larry Sanders had two blocked

for a year to help sign a free agent or use in a trade.

"I've been blessed to play for a team and a city that has embraced me," Speights, who had to agree to any trade, wrote on Twitter. "I will never forget the love and support I received from (hash)grizznation."

Cleveland coach Byron Scott thinks the trade will benefit Cleveland in several ways.

"The biggest thing out of the whole deal is getting Mo (Speights) in there and getting that first round pick as well," Scott said. "Very valuable assets. It was a good day for us."

The 6-foot-10 Speights will help ease the loss of Varejao, who was leading the NBA in rebounding. Speights averaged 6.6 points and 4.7 rebounds as one of the Grizzlies' top reserves but had been averaging only 14.5 minutes this season coming off the bench in Memphis. His contract expires after next season.

shots, giving him at least one in his last 27 games, the second longest streak in the NBA behind Tim Duncan, who has blocked a shot in 29 straight.

Pistons 105, Magic 90

In Michigan, Jason Maxiell, Andre Drummond and Greg Monroe combined for 38 points and 28 rebounds, and the Detroit Pistons pulled away to beat the undersized Orlando Magic 105-90 Tuesday night.

Brandon Knight led Detroit with 18 points, while Monroe scored 16 and Drummond and Maxiell each had 11 points and 11 rebounds.

The Pistons also finished with a 16-6 edge in offensive rebounds against the Magic, who had their size issues magnified when Glen Davis was benched for much of the second half after taking 15 first-half shots and grabbing just three rebounds. He attempted just one shot the rest of the way and finished with 11 points.

J.J. Redick was Orlando's biggest threat, scoring 26 points on 9-for-10 shooting - including 5 for 6 on 3-pointers. Jameer Nelson added 14 points and nine rebounds.

After an even first half, the Pistons got a tiebreaking basket after a strange play to end the second quarter. Detroit had a foul to give, so Will Bynum grabbed Nelson 30 feet from the basket. Nelson, trying to draw a shooting foul, flipped the ball straight up into the air. Both teams froze, expecting a whistle, but when nothing was called, Kyle Singler grabbed the loose ball and Monroe finished the half with an uncontested dunk.

That put the Pistons up 54-52 at the half despite 17 first-half points from Redick. He hit all six of his first-half shots, including three 3-pointers and a four-point play. Maxiell had nine points and 11 rebounds in the half for Detroit.

Cavaliers 95, Celtics 90

In Cleveland, Kyrie Irving scored 15 of his 40 points in the fourth quarter, including several key late baskets, to lead the Cleveland Cavaliers in a 95-90 victory over the Boston Celtics on Tuesday night.

Irving scored 11 points in the final 2:33 on four layups and three free throws to give Cleveland back-to-back wins at home for the first time this season and send Boston to its season-high fourth straight loss.

Irving shot 16 for 24 - setting a career high for field goals made - and fell one point short of his career-best scoring total, set at New York on Dec. 15.

Tristan Thompson added 21 points for the Cavaliers.

Rajon Rondo led Boston with 17 points while Kevin Garnett scored 16. Paul Pierce, who scored 40 points in a 103-91 win over the Cavaliers in Boston on Dec. 19, finished with 12 points on 3-for-15 shooting.

CINCINNATI (AP)—The Reds will host the 2015 All-Star game at Great American Ball Park, the city's first since 1988, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press.

Commissioner Bud Selig will discuss the decision on Wednesday in Cincinnati, where he's also appearing to promote Major League Baseball's latest urban youth academy, according to the person speaking on condition of anonymity because no announcement had been made.

The Cincinnati Enquirer first reported the decision.

Reds will host 2015 All-Star game

The Reds have been trying to acquire the All-Star game since they opened Great American Ball Park in 2003. They hosted the game twice at Riverfront Stadium - two weeks after its opening in 1970 and again in 1988. This year's game will be played at the Mets' Citi Field in New York. The 2014 All-Star game will be played in Minneapolis.

It'll be the fifth time that Cincinnati—home of baseball's first profes-

sional franchise—will host the All-Star game. It was played at Crosley Field in 1938 and again in 1953. The Reds hosted the game when they opened Riverfront Stadium in 1970, and baseball had one of its most memorable finishes. Pete Rose bowled over Indians catcher Ray Fosse to score the winning run in the 12th inning of a 5-4 NL victory.

In 1988, rain washed out the home run derby the day before the All-Star

game at Riverfront Stadium. The uneventful game ended in a 2-1 American League victory, with Oakland catcher Terry Steinbach driving in both AL runs on a homer and a sacrifice fly. Steinbach was the MVP and his special bat - with his name erroneously spelled "Steinbech" - was sent to the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

The Reds have made an extra push to get the All-Star game since Bob Castellini bought controlling interest

in the club after the 2005 season. Major League Baseball was impressed by how the Reds handled the annual Civil Rights Game in 2009 and 2010. The Reds also have hosted playoff games in two of the last three seasons.

When the Reds hosted the Civil Rights games, Selig mentioned that the city would be a partner in one of its urban youth academies, aimed at getting youngsters more interested in the game. Selig will discuss MLB's contribution to the venture on Wednesday. Cincinnati will have the seventh of the urban youth academies, the first in the Midwest.

Registration for Marianas Coffee Trail Run still on



From left, Kento Akimaru, Lennosuke Suzuki, and Lyn Tenorio near the finish line of the 10K race in last year's Marianas Coffee Trail Run.

The 6th Annual Marianas Coffee Trail Run on Saipan kicks off this Saturday at 6:30am with lower rates offered to participating runners and walkers. Early bird registration fees by tomorrow (Jan. 24) are \$10 for children ages 12 and under, \$15 for athletes ages 13-18 years old, and \$25 for participants in the 19 and older age group. Registration forms for the event are also available at the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) website under Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com or can be picked up at the MVA office in San Jose.

Latecomers can still register until 5:30am on race day for an additional \$10 over the early bird fee. Walkers are welcomed to participate in the 10K short course. Around 80 participants are expected for the event, which features a 15K trail run and a 10K short course from the beach at the American Memorial Park in Garapan to the top of Mt. Tapochao, the peak of the mountain range originating in the Marianas Trench. The course boasts some of the most picturesque views of Saipan and traverses wild coffee plantations of the Japanese colonial period and the newer plantations of the Marianas Coffee Co. Awards will be presented to the Top 3 finishers in the male and female divisions. All participants will receive a finisher's t-shirt, certificate of participation, Marianas Coffee, and an invitation to the awards banquet following the race at the Micro Beach Pavilion at 11:30 am. Race co-sponsors included Marianas Coffee Company, the KFC Triathlon Club Japan, TEAM PDI, and Northern Marianas Athletics. For more information on the Marianas Coffee Trail Run, contact Ed Diaz at 670- 664-3200/1 or via email at ediaz@mymarianas.com. (PR)



New golfers group holds first tournament at MCC

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The newly chartered Marianas Golf Association is holding its first monthly event, every month to keep things interesting," Hocog said.

The MGA requires a \$50 annual fee, which should be paid in full on or before the March Ace of the Month event. Besides playing at MCC this weekend, MGA will also hold tournaments at Coral Ocean Point Resort Club, Kingfisher Golf Links and Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort. Red, white, and blue tees will also be utilized depending on the players' handicap. Further details about the net scoring system will be discussed after the Sunday round. For more information, contact MGA vice president J.J. Atalig at 285-4115, secretary Greg Sablan Jr. at 483-8263, or email marianasgolf670@gmail.com.

TEAM 2

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went on to secure their perfect run in the tournament after winning the title game over last year's champions JR Gechig and Charnessa Lizama of Knock Them Out, 21-19. Team 2 debuted in the co-ed grass with a victory over Mante Teos. It then downed Pala Quan to advance to the upper bracket semis where they bumped down Chim Cham, 21-17, and eventual third placers Tyce Mister and Kathy Winkfield of Rassim Dazzim, 21-15. Notably, Rassim Dazzim thwarted Gechig and Lizama of Knock Them Out's in the second round, but the 2012 champions triumphed in the loser's bracket, defeating Dos

Nick Gross' Nick Gross and Kelly Butcher, Can-Am, Chin Cham, Team 1's Bruce Berline and Jenifer, 21-13, to keep their bid for a return trip to the finals alive. Gechig and Lizama then arranged a rematch against Rassim for the last finals berth and won, 21-14, before losing the championship to newcomers Jones and Steinkuller. The Top 3 finishers received medals provided by Roc-Ball, gift certificates for Truong's courtesy of Triple J Motors and other prizes from the Ayuda Network, which also provided fruit and snacks during the event. Pacific Trading Company provided refreshments. Notably, by tradition Jones and Steinkuller also won the responsibility of organizing next

year's competition. Last weekend's event drew 21 teams, which competed for the five first round bye slots. Pool play also determined the ranking on the double-elimination bracket. Meanwhile, NMIVA would like to thank all the players, sponsors, and volunteers for helping make the event possible. **For The Love of Volleyball Feb. 9** The association also announced that the For the Love of Volleyball (men's and women's doubles beach volleyball tournament) is scheduled for Feb. 9 at the beachside of the Hyatt Regency Saipan. Entrance fee is only \$25 per person and \$20 for NMIVA members. Players must be at least 16 years old to be able to

compete. Players are requested to bring their own partner in the double elimination event that follows standard Federation De Volleyball (FIVB) two-person beach rules. Game point for early matches will be set at 15 with a cap of 21, while game point will be extended to 21 with a cap of 25 in the semifinals and finals. Proceeds from the event will go toward NMIVA's youth development programs and travel for international competitions. Open registration starts court-side at 8:30am and games tip off at 9am. For pre-registration or more information, contact tournament coordinator Robin Sapong Eugenio at reugenio@hyattsaipn.com or email nmivolleyball@gmail.com.

GCA

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a separate make-up pairing also last Saturday, 25-21, 25-19, 15-12, before falling to the fourth-ranked Mount Carmel School's Lady Knights (4-1) last Tuesday, 12-25, 23-25, 12-15. Meanwhile, the season continues today for the Round 6 games. Also starting today, the third set will only be played, if needed. Matches will start at 4pm, with SIS Green squaring off with SIS White on the north court and MBA taking on GCA on the south end. At 5pm, MHS Yellow and KHS collide on the north square, while Southern meets Mt. Carmel on the south court. Then at 6pm MHS Yellow faces MHS Blue on the north side, while Southern challenges SIS Green on the south court.

FAMILIAR

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few meters away from the finish line, she cramped up before deciding to soldier on and complete the grueling race.

Last year's Top 3 finishers are expected to have warmed-up and engage in a tougher and closer race on Saipan, as they will also compete in the XTERRA Philippines in Cebu on March 3. Bucher and company will the complete their own XTERRA

trifecta on March 23 when they join XTERRA Guam. Meanwhile, with more pros joining this year's XTERRA, organizers are planning to hold a triathlon panel discussion on March 12 and 14 at the Pacific Islands Club. Other activities

to treat guests are also scheduled during the XTERRA and Tagaman (March 16) weeks. The list includes XTERRA Sunset Run (March 8), a series of Tank 2 Tank swims, hush runs, and BBQ party. (Saipan Tribune)

CLOSE

From Page 28

timed in at 45:05 against the latter's 45:48. Sendin and company started and ended the championship race at the Bird Island Lookout and past through the Calavera road, the back side to Radar via the one million gallon tank, back road of the Marianas Country Club golf course, and Kimikaze and Autobahn trails. Ken Pierson rounded out the Top 3 after submitting 47:58. Also completing the longest course of the race were Noel Altamirano

(49:27), Rosalio Quintos (52:53), Ranie Gayiola (54:51), Jay Santos (54:51), Rene Calage (56:33), and Ben Babauta (1:00:29). In the women's division, Glorybel Tan won by less than three minutes against Susan Marchitti, as the former crossed the line at the 1:00:55 mark against the latter's 1:02:36. Eileen Escudero came in at third with a time of 1:25:41. In the men's sports course, top finisher Jerome Diyco had only 25-second lead over Edwin Polagame. The youth rider clocked in at 33:07 versus Polagame's 33:32, while Denicio Bautista completed

the Top 3 with his 35:16. Other short course finishers were Ariel Lansangan (37:49), Gerald Rangamar (41:26), Samson Tan (41:27), father and son Bruce (1:01:14) and Alexander (1:16:49) Batemen and women's division's Angel Marie Tan (49:26 and Sheryl Sizemore (1:06:52). The short course brought bikers to Autobahn from the Bird Island Lookout and then to Santa Clause Lane and Banzai trails. For the easy course, which had bikers heading to Santa Clause Lane from the Bird Island Lookout and to the landfill before returning to the starting/

finish line, Wynn Brillo posted the closest victory, as his winning time of 18:28 was 23 seconds faster than Christian Bravo's 18:51. The next two placers—Keana Valencia and Esther Ada—had a neck-and-neck finish with the former recording 19:04 and the latter logging 19:06. Juanita Fajardo (20:42), Adam Sablan (21:00), and JC Ferrer (33:20) rounded out the easy course finishers. Meanwhile, NMICF would like to thank Marpac, Brad Ruszala, and IT&E for supporting the group's season-opening race last weekend. (Saipan Tribune)

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES									
NBA STANDINGS					WESTERN CONFERENCE				
EASTERN CONFERENCE					Southwest Division				
Atlantic Division					San Antonio	33	11	.750	—
	W	L	Pct	GB	Memphis	26	14	.650	5
New York	25	14	.641	—	Houston	22	21	.512	10½
Brooklyn	25	16	.610	1	Dallas	18	24	.429	14
Boston	20	21	.488	6	New Orleans	14	27	.341	17½
Philadelphia	17	25	.405	9½	Northwest Division				
Toronto	15	26	.366	11	Oklahoma City	33	9	.786	—
Southeast Division					Denver	25	18	.581	8½
Miami	26	12	.684	—	Utah	22	19	.537	10½
Atlanta	23	18	.561	4½	Portland	20	21	.488	12½
Orlando	14	27	.341	13½	Minnesota	17	21	.447	14
Charlotte	10	31	.244	17½	Pacific Division				
Washington	9	30	.231	17½	L.A. Clippers	32	11	.744	—
Central Division					Golden State	25	15	.625	5½
Indiana	26	16	.619	—	L.A. Lakers	17	24	.415	14
Chicago	24	16	.600	1	Sacramento	16	26	.381	15½
Milwaukee	22	18	.550	3	Phoenix	13	28	.317	18
Detroit	16	25	.390	9½	BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				
Cleveland	11	32	.256	15½					

NMIVA 6th Annual Co-ed Grass Volleyball Tournament

PHOTOS BY WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND



J.R. Gechig of Knock Them Out back tracks to clear out the ball during the lower bracket semifinals against Rassim Dazzim.



Chenny Lizama of Knock Them Out tries to save an errant pass from going out of bounds.



Team Chim-Cham executes part one of the traditional bump, set, and spike strategy during their knockout match versus Knock Them Out.

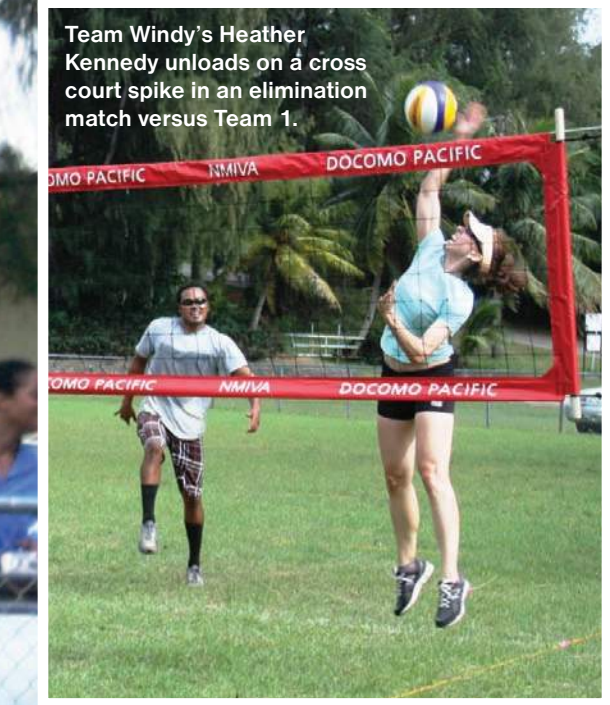
Team 1's Bruce Berlin tries to keep the ball alive during a game in the Northern Mariana Island Volleyball Association's 6th Annual Co-ed Grass Volleyball Tournament last Sunday at the Navy Hill court.



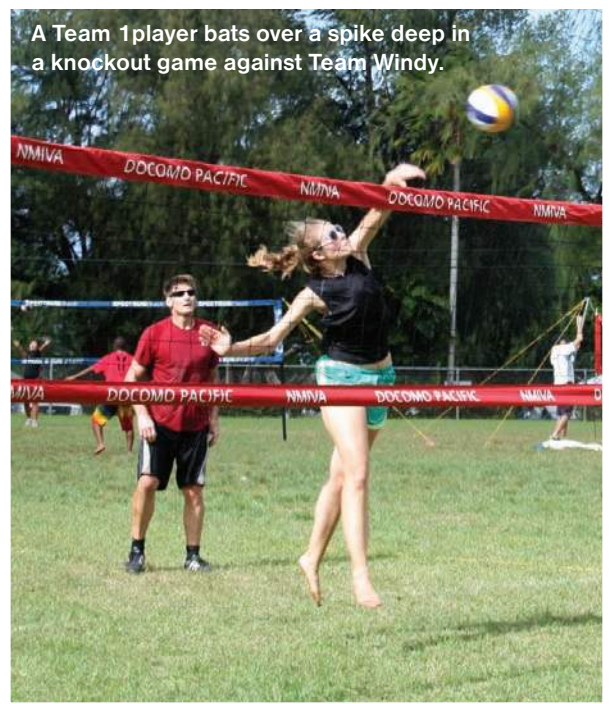
Kristen Steinkuller of Team 2 pops up Knock Them Out's serve during the finals.



V.J. Jones of Team 2 goes for a big spike during their finals game against Knock Them Out.



Team Windy's Heather Kennedy unloads on a cross court spike in an elimination match versus Team 1.



A Team 1 player bats over a spike deep in a knockout game against Team Windy.



Rassim Dazzim's Tyce Mister powers over a booming spike in the lower bracket semifinal against Knock Them Out.



Serena loses in quarters, Azarenka into semis

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Thunder beat Clippers to extend West lead

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Team 2 rules NMIVA grass v'ball tourney



Champions V.J. Jones, third left, and Christen Steinkuller, fourth left, of Team 2 are flanked by, from left, runners-up Rassim Dazzim's Tyce Mister and Kathy Winkfield and Knock Them Out's JR Gechig and Charnessa Lizama during the awards ceremony for NMIVA's 6th Annual Co-ed Grass Volleyball Tournament last Sunday on the Navy Hill court.

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER

Team 2's V.J. Jones and Christen Steinkuller topped the Northern Mariana Island Volleyball Association's 6th Annual Co-ed Grass Volleyball Tournament after going undefeated in last Sunday's competition on the Navy Hill court.

GCA still unscathed; SIS, MHS closing in

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



The Grace Christian Academy's Lady Eagles still hold a flawless record and remain the team to beat in the 2012-2013 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Volleyball League.

The Eagles swept Saipan International School's White Lady Geckos (4-3), 25-13, 25-12, 15-9, last Tuesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium to improve their record to 6-0.

GCA has some company hot in pursuit, as SIS's Green Lady Geckos added a pair of wins and MHS' Blue Lady Dolphins peeled off three straight wins.

Last Tuesday, SIS Green rallied past Marianas Baptist Academy's Lady Stormz (1-5) in the last two sets, 25-20, 15-12, after dropping the opening set, 24-26. The Lady Geckos then went on to rout Kagman High School's Lady Ayuyus (1-5), 25-16, 25-12, 15-5, to move up to a 5-1 slate.

MHS Blue bested sister squad MHS Yellow Lady Dolphins (2-4), 25-12, 25-23, 15-9, in a make-up game last Saturday and then toppled the Saipan Southern High School's Lady Manta Rays (0-5), 25-12, 25-22, 15-10; and Kagman, 25-15, 25-15, 15-9, last Tuesday to improve its card to 5-2.

In other results, MHS Yellow defeated KHS in

See GCA on Page 26



Saipan International School Green Lady Geckos' Phalai Frink bashes a return past Kagman High School Lady Ayuyus' Katrina Castro during their game in the MISO volleyball league last Tuesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Jones and Steinkuller's victory was a stunner, as the pair just met randomly during some pick-up games at the Fiesta Resort & Spa's sand court last week when they heard



details of the co-ed tournament and decided to team up for the

weekend event.

The duo then caught the home bunch by surprise and racked up four straight wins to take a twice-to-beat advantage in the

finals. Jones and Steinkuller
See TEAM 2 on Page 26

Close finishes in Bird Island MTB Classic



A CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A biker gets out of the trail during last Sunday's Bird Island January Classic XC MTB Race.



Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation's

first event for the 2013 season proved to be a tougher one as close finishes were recorded in last Sunday's Bird Island January Classic XC MTB Race.

In the men's championship course, first placer Charlin Sendin made it to the finish line less than a minute ahead of runner-up Erico Castro, as the former

See CLOSE on Page 26

Familiar faces in women's field of XTERRA



Last year's rivals will be back to square off for the women's division crown in the 2012 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

According to former Taga, Inc. president Bill Sakovich, defending champion Renata Bucher of Switzerland will return for the March 9 competition and face fellow returnees Jacqui Slack of United Kingdom and Carina Wasle of Austria and the now Guam-based Miekko Carey. Daz Parker, who had been to the two editions of the Crown Jewel of XTERRA Tour but missed last year's competition, this time will join the women's field, while 2011 champion Shonny Vanlandingham will skip the race for the second straight season.

Bucher, who fell to third place in 2011, regained the championship and claimed her seventh title after finish-



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

United Kingdom's Jacqui Slack, right and Switzerland's Renata Bucher, left, console Austria's Carina Wasle, center, at the finish line after the latter survived a freak bike crash in last year's XTERRA Saipan Championship.

ing the 1.5-kilometer swim, 32k bike, and 12k run race last year in 2:54:56, about 10 minutes ahead of the then debuting Slack (3:04:47) and the crash-plagued, but brave Wasle (3:05:53). Carey completed the Top 3 with a time of 3:13:41.

Wasle still notched a third place finish and would have

made it to the American Memorial Park grounds earlier if not for a terrible accident in the bike leg. The Austrian triathlete crashed into a fellow biker down the trail at Navy Hill and sustained a deep cut on her legs and had her head slam on the ground. Her ordeal did not end in the bike leg, as a

See FAMILIAR on Page 26